Hafa Adai!

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Torres' suit vs JGO is dismissed

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

Judge pro tem Timothy Bellas has dismissed the lawsuit filed by Gov. Ralph DLG Torres against the House of Representatives' Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee over its decision to hold him in contempt.

After over a month since hearing the arguments of both parties regarding the JGO's motion to dismiss Torres' lawsuit, Bellas issued his ruling on the matter yesterday, ruling in favor of the JGO by dismissing the suit with prejudice. That means the case cannot be refiled.

Bellas

Torres

"The motion to dismiss is granted because there are no additional facts which could defeat the legislative immunity involved. The dismissal is granted with prejudice," Bellas stated.

According to Bellas' order, one of the main reasons the court granted the JGO's mo-

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COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:
- **Red:** Least safe
- **Orange**
- **Yellow**
- **Blue**
- **Green:** Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

TRADITIONAL DANCE FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Members of the Songsong Mami Group perform a traditional dance during the proclamation signing for the Historic Preservation Month at the Canoe House in Susupe last week.

Public auditor Peter resigns

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Kina Borja Peter, the first female public auditor of the CNMI, who was sworn in for the six-year term 14 months ago, has resigned to pursue another job opportunity.

Peter submitted her resignation letter to Gov. Ralph DLG Torres last Tuesday, May 10. She said her resignation will be effective on July 8, 2022.

Peter

In her letter, Peter said she has been blessed with an amazing team consisting of hard-working and talented individuals over the past year.

"I am grateful for the support they have given

See PUBLIC on Page 4

Violent death in America stalks ordinary walks of daily life

WASHINGTON (AP)—In far-flung cities, deadly violence ripped apart the most typical of American spring weekends, driven by rage or madness, the bloodiest by suspected racist hate.

The crime scenes represented a cross-section of ordinariness—a grocery store in upstate New York, a California church, a Texas flea market, the streets near a basketball arena in Wisconsin.

The carnage Americans see on their screens is not from an invading force. It is from within. The United States is a cauldron of seething grievanc-

See VIOLENT on Page 4

IN SENATE SESSION TODAY

Four senators to vote on Articles of Impeachment

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Republican Party-controlled Senate is set to vote today, Wednesday, whether or not to convict Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, the titular head of CNMI's GOP, of the Articles of Impeachment. Many believe that the proceedings are only a formality, considering that there are no House of Representatives' prosecutor and no House impeachment record submitted as evidence.

Some, however, are uncertain as to how the Senate's session—scheduled to start at 1:30pm—will go considering that the whole impeachment

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INSIDE

BUSINESS
McDonald's is closing its doors in Russia, increasing the country's isolation over its war.

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NATION
A Chinese-born gunman kills one in a shooting at a gathering of Taiwanese parishioners.

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GOOD HOUSEKEEPING
A neutral color palette will create a foundation from which you can build any color palette.

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SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

Local

Garcia, Liu lead MHS Class of 2022 graduation rites

By LEIGH GASES
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CORRESPONDENT

Perpetua Jasmine M. Garcia and Vivien Liu led a total of 363 members of the Class of 2022 of Marianas High School during a graduation ceremony last Monday that saw the school campus overflowing with the graduates, their parents, dignitaries, and faculty and staff, and friends.

Perpetua Jasmine M. Garcia, who was named the class valedictorian, also received the Board of Education Award, as presented by BOE chair Gregory Borja, while Vivien Liu, the class salutatorian, received the Commissioner of Education Award, as presented by PSS Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred Ada.

Ten students were also recognized for having the highest grade point averages and were presented with the "Top Ten Awards." They were Garcia, Liu, Jieun Yang, Joanah Victoria Bartolome Jimenez, Shu Qi Wu, Christina Kim, Arisa Iseyama Custodio, Jerawn Christopher Camacho Joyner, Sung Won Lee, Lizzie Joy Del Rosario Manabat, and Jigger Zyrus Manalo Parayaoan.

There was also a "Dolphin Award" that was given to the graduate who demonstrated the best of MHS; who has showcased school spirit and is encouraging to one's peers and the MHS family. The recipient of the MHS Dolphin Award was Jerry Oscar Mettao.

The recipient of the Governor's Leadership Award, presented by Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, was MHS Youth Congress senator Easton Cabrera Dela Cruz, who exemplified the character traits of leadership, excellence, service, and citizenship.

The recipient of the Lieutenant Governor's Award, presented by Lt. Gov. Arnold Palacios, was Jigger Zyrus Manalo Parayaoan, who also exemplified the character traits of leadership, excellence, service, and citizenship.

The recipient of the Mayor's Award, presented by Mayor David M. Apatang, was Rownel Jody V. Coloma, who has shown outstanding leadership and contribution to the community.

The Outstanding Female Graduate Award, which is awarded to a strong female role model within the graduating class, has a GPA of 3.5 or higher, a good working relationship with other students, and demonstrates a commitment to women's issues through service and advocacy, went to Garcia.

The Principal's Award given to Izeah Napu Rocky Santos, the graduating senior who has matured and transformed over the course of high school and is on the path to greater success.

There were also "Department Content Area Awards," for graduates who worked diligently over the course of four years and have earned the honor of being the best in their respective subject areas.

The Language Arts Award went to Liu and Jerwan C. Joyner.

This year's recipients of the Language Other Than English Award went to Hoanan Zhou and Ydrane L. Sanje.

The Mathematics Award went to Abdiel R. Carandang and Joanah B. Jimenez.

The Science Award also went to Joanah B. Jimenez and Christina Kim.

The Social Studies Award went to Liu and Joyner.

The Physical Education Award went to Gabriel K. Arkoh and Raven John P. Francisco.

The JROTC Award went to Heart Marielle M. De Luna and Earl Lawrence G. Salamat.

The Career Technical Education Award went to Morgiana Rosario I. Alepuyo and Arisa I. Custodio.

LEIGH GASES
Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and first lady Diann Torres poses with MHS Youth Congress Senator and recipient of the Governor's Leadership award, Easton C. Dela Cruz.

LEIGH GASES
Lt. Gov. Arnold Palacios poses with the recipient of the Lt. Governor's Leadership Awardee, Jigger Zyrus Manalo Parayaoan.

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Member FDIC
EQUAL HOUSING LENDER

How to avail of $30 internet subsidy

The CNMI Office of Planning and Development CNMI-Broadband Project and Office of Information Technology are working together to help residents sign up and avail of a $30 subsidy per month for internet access.

As provided under the Affordable Connectivity Program of the Federal Communications Commission, this allows eligible residents and households avail of ACPs that are offered by local telecommunication firms.

An estimated 80-90% of all CNMI households are eligible for this program.

As of May 2022, a total of 2,913 households within the CNMI are signed up for the program, according to an OPD news release yesterday. This is almost a 20% increase of CNMI households who have signed up for this program, compared to about 2,300 residents who signed up in April 2022.

"Making sure that we find and assist the many remaining households that can take advantage of this subsidy is a priority for CNMI-Broadband and consistent with our Sustainable Development Goals," said OPD director A. Kodep Ogumoro-Uludong.

The CNMI-Broadband Project will provide interested individuals with printed literature, informational brochures, and FAQs. Additionally, the CNMI-Broadband project welcomes interested organizations to set up an ACP sign up event, and training and support will be available in order to familiarize the organization with the process. Facilitated assistance from the FCC is also possible. For more information, or to request promotional and instructional materials, contact broadband lead Peter Dresslar at peter.dresslar@opd.gov.mp. ***(PR)***

Court grants IPI's motion to dismiss suit of ex-workers

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

The District Court for the NMI has granted Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC's motion to dismiss the discrimination suit filed by a group of the casino investor's former workers.

District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona granted last week IPI's request to dismiss the lawsuit filed by a group of its former workers that are accusing IPI of paying them significantly less than other workers because of their race. They claim they were in the same class and shared the same skills and experiences as these other workers.

"The court grants defendant's motion to dismiss the complaint with leave for plaintiffs to amend the complaint, including to amend class definition. Court further grants plaintiff's request for enlargement of time. Plaintiff's amended complaint is due Monday, June 27, 2022," the court stated.

Manglona said she will issue an order on her decision soon.

Back in March, IPI pro hac vice counsel Daniel Weiner filed the motion to dismiss, claiming that the plaintiffs fail to state a plausible claim for relief.

The plaintiffs—Özcan Genç, Hasan Gökçe, and Süleyman Köş—are former IPI employees hired to work on the construction of the Imperial Palace Casino and Hotel Resort in Garapan.

They claimed that the casino investor engaged in a company-wide practice of employment discrimination, both intentional and systemic, on the basis of national origin, against them and others by paying them less than the Taiwanese employees.

However, Weiner claims that that plaintiffs' complaint lacks any factual allegations to support their claim and the court should dismiss the complaint in its entirety.

According to court documents, IPI's alleged discriminatory conduct resulted in the plaintiffs and other members of the class suffering damages, including but not limited to, reduced wages.

The plaintiffs claim that while they were employed to work on the Imperial Palace casino/hotel resort in Garapan, IPI also hired other construction workers, including Taiwanese construction workers, who also performed the same types of work that the plaintiff did and shared the same skills, qualifications, and experience. However, the Taiwanese workers were paid a higher rate.

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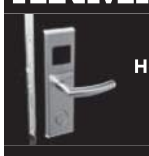
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Public reminded of Saipan regulations governing dogs

By LEIGH GASES
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CORRESPONDENT

As the CNMI ramps up efforts to revive its tourism industry and as its borders slowly open up to more tourists, the Dog Control Program under the Saipan Mayor's Office has initiated a second round of outreach to remind pet owners of the current dog regulations set by the Saipan Mayor's Office.

Some villages over the course of the past couple months in the south of Saipan have already received an "Outreach Notice" from staff of the Saipan Mayor's Office Dog Control Program, which will make their way all around the island. Currently, the dog control staff are up on Capital Hill and will make their way down to Sadog Tasi and onward to the rest of the villages, passing out the outreach notices, which states the regulations governing the program.

Martin Pangelinan, manager of the dog control program in As Perdido, said the outreach aims to keep community members and tourists safe from potential harmful dog bites. He described the outreach as "doing well."

"We're seeing progress with passing out the information about the program," he said.

Pangelinan said that it takes just five minutes and he asks residents to give the staff their time and to abide by the regulations. He said that their staff do not go to residences with "No trespassing" signs, but will just find somewhere else to attach the notice.

The first round of the outreach was prior to COVID-19 back in 2019 when Pangelinan first started enforcing the regulations as a new manager of the animal shelter.

Henry Hofschneider, special assistant to Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang, said the regulations are there "to control the dog population. … The notice is just to educate people. …Pet owners have responsibilities to take care of their pets, to make sure that they're confined when they're not on a leash. …And also to educate people that we should help each other control the dog population because we've seen dogs roam around and scavenge for trash. And the worst thing is, they chase after students. …Sometimes they get bitten. We've had some reports of vicious dogs and near bites, so that's the purpose. It's to just ask everyone to help us help each other control the dog population."

Hofschneider added that the regulations are also for any animals that are owned by residents such as cats, cattle, goats, and other farm animals that are left unconfined that may become deterrents to the cleanliness and safety of the community.

Residents have "been very receptive and welcoming and supportive of the effort our Dog Control Program staff are doing. We appreciate that and that's what we want to do. We just want to work together, cooperate, and make our public places and neighborhoods safe," Hofschneider said.

For any questions or concerns regarding your dogs or the current regulations, visit the new Saipan Mayor's Animal Shelter in As Perdido, which is open weekdays from 9am to 4pm or contact them at (670)234-3647.

CPA Rota commercial dock to open soon

Beginning on June 1, 2022, the Small Boat Harbor at Rota West Harbor will open to the public. The hours of operation are Monday to Friday from 8am to 5pm. The rates and charges applicable to the Small Boat Harbor are provided in Part 700 of the Northern Mariana Islands Administrative Code. Before using the Small Boat Harbor, contact CPA Rota at (670) 532-9497 to ascertain available docking areas.

"Thanks to the teamwork between the Commonwealth Ports Authority and the CNMI Department of Lands and Natural Resources, I am very happy to announce the opening of the Small Boat Harbor at Rota West Harbor," said Commonwealth Ports Authority executive director Christopher S. Tenorio. "The Small Boat Harbor provides an area for smaller commercial vessels to load and unload their cargo. Because CPA is now able to accommodate smaller commercial vessels, Rota East Harbor can now be used exclusively for its intended purposes as a marine recreational facility."

To view the rates and charges applicable to the Small Boat Harbor visit the link: https://cnmilaw.org/pdf/admincode/T40/T40-20.1.pdf. ***(PR)***

Accountant gets 18-month prison sentence for visa fraud

An accountant of a manpower agency in the CNMI has been sentenced in the U.S. District Court for the NMI to 18 months in prison for conspiring with others in a visa fraud scheme.

Mylene Basco Casupanan, 42, a Filipino citizen, was also ordered to undergo two years of supervised release following imprisonment, render 40 hours of community service, and pay a mandatory $100 special assessment fee.

"Casupanan is the final defendant to be held accountable in this complex investigation and prosecution," said U.S. Attorney Shawn N. Anderson. "Our office is actively targeting this activity in the CNMI. We will continue bring those who abuse the CW-1 program to justice."

In January of 2019, Casupanan and Alejandro Tumandao Nario created A&A Enterprises, a manpower agency business incorporated on the island of Saipan in the CNMI. Nario, president of the company, and Casupanan, the accountant and business manager, operated this business which profited from the submission of more than 100 fraudulent CNMI-Only Transitional Worker (CW-1) visas.

As part of the scheme, Casupanan recruited foreign workers from the Philippines and in the CNMI, and then forged documentation for submission with their CW-1 applications. Rather than provide full-time employment to these foreign workers as required under the CW-1 program, Casupanan and Nario demanded the foreign workers find their own employment in Saipan and then pay A&A Enterprises a biweekly tax of $194.

Nario was previously sentenced on Feb. 4, 2022, to serve 21 months of incarceration in a federal prison.

"A&A Enterprises went through great lengths to defraud the U.S. government and potential beneficiaries of the CW-1 visa program," said Homeland Security Investigations Honolulu special agent in charge John F. Tobon. "Let this be a clear message that there will be serious consequences for those who exploit our immigration system by engaging in these elaborate fraud schemes."

The case was investigated by HIS and prosecuted by Albert S. Flores, Jr., assistant U.S. Attorney in the District of the Northern Mariana Islands. ***(PR)***

VIOLENT

From Page 1

es and poisonous social media conspiracy theories that have even gained purchase with some in power.

There is, by now, a pattern after mass shootings—shock, thoughts, prayers, vows to do something, then collective slumped shoulders as attention moves on and it becomes clear nothing much will change.

Americans are still in the first phase as they absorb the aftermath of the past weekend of violence, which coincided with a COVID-19 death tally that reached 1 million in the U.S.

"I'm trying to bear witness but it's just too much," Buffalo, New York, resident Yvonne Woodard said of the rampage Saturday outside Tops Friendly Market. A young white man wearing body armor and livestreaming with a helmet camera opened fire Saturday, killing 10 Black people. "You can't even go to the damn store in peace," Woodard said.

You can't go anywhere in peace with certainty today in this country of howling political and cultural animus, ubiquitous guns and murder rates surpassing those in most of the industrialized world.

Not to a Houston flea market, where thousands were browsing Sunday when a gunfight broke out, killing two people, injuring three and panicking bystanders.

Not to church, where on Sunday a man opened fire during a lunch reception in Laguna Woods, California, killing one person and wounding five before a pastor smashed the gunman's head with a chair and parishioners tied him up.

Not to Milwaukee's downtown, where authorities declared a partial curfew for the weekend after three shootings injured 21 people near an entertainment district where thousands had gathered for an NBA playoff game. Milwaukee, Philadelphia and Indianapolis are among cities that saw record numbers of killings last year, most involving guns.

In Laguna Woods, police said Monday, the gunman was a U.S. citizen who immigrated from China and was motivated by hate for the Taiwanese community, whose members were attending the church.

Americans have a president who, like him or not, is good at empathy and having to tap that quality more than anyone would want. Joe Biden goes to Buffalo on Tuesday to offer comfort to bereaved families and to address, yet again, "the hate that remains a stain on the soul of America."

Biden is the second president in a row to warn of existential threats to the American fabric.

Donald Trump startled dignitaries on his 2016 inaugural stage with his talk of "American carnage," a stark portrait drawn from urban poverty, rusted factories "scattered like tombstones," crime, gangs and drugs.

Biden's portrait is dark in different respects, centered on the systematic effort by Trump and now his allies to upend election laws and processes, based on false allegations of a stolen 2020 election. Add to that a toxic brew of conspiracy theories on race and immigration that authorities say fanned the Buffalo massacre.

Payton Gendron, the 18-year-old suspect, is believed to have written a document in the possession of police that laid out an attack intended to terrorize nonwhite, non-Christian people and get them to leave the country.

The document counts Black people and immigrants as "replacers," drawing from the "great replacement" racist conspiracy theory spread by fringe groups that elites are plotting to diminish the influence of white people by increasing the minority population. The theme is a staple on some Fox News programming.

Sanitized versions of that claim have gained currency among some Republican lawmakers who have accused Democrats of encouraging illegal immigration from Latin America to gain more voters and pull off a "permanent election insurrection," as GOP Rep. Elise Stefanik of New York put it in a campaign ad last year.

That's worrisome to Rep. Liz Cheney of Wyoming, once a senior member of the Republican congressional leadership and now an outcast due to her pushback against the election falsehoods that powered the Jan. 6, 2021, Capitol riot and continue to be spread by many of her colleagues.

"The House GOP leadership has enabled white nationalism, white supremacy, and anti-Semitism," she tweeted Monday. "History has taught us that what begins with words ends in far worse."

TORRES'

From Page 1

tion to dismiss was because it found that the committee can invoke legislative immunity because the court found that the subpoena issued falls within the "legitimate legislative sphere" protected by the Speech or Debate Clause.

"In determining whether a particular activity falls within the 'legitimate legislative sphere,' a court must determine whether the activity is an integral part of the deliberative and communicative processes by which [House lawmakers] participate in committee proceedings. In the case at hand, the committee believes that the governor's testimony is necessary to enact remedial legislation that would curtail improper and wasteful spending of public funds," he said.

Bellas stated that it is plain from the face of the complaint and the matters taken under judicial notice that the JGO was acting "within the sphere of legitimate legislative activity," and the court need not inquire into the committee's motives.

"The subpoena covers seven subject areas that all relate to the governor's expenditure of public funds and use of government personnel and resources. Not only are these topics ones 'on which legislation could be had,' there is in fact pending legislation relating to more than one of these expenditures," Bellas said.

As for Torres' argument that legislative immunity under the Speech and Debate Clause is not applicable to the JGO as a whole, Bellas said because the clause's central purpose is to provide legislative independence, the JGO may invoke the clause as a whole.

"The court reads the language of Article II, Section 12 of the NMI Constitution broadly to effectuate its purpose of protecting legislative independence. The court finds no compelling reason to limit the protections of the Speech or Debate Clause to individual legislators only, and therefore the House standing committee may invoke legislative immunity as an affirmative defense from suit," he said.

The court also found that Torres, in his capacity as governor of the CNMI, is not immune to subpoenas issued by the legislative branch as he previously argued.

"The court will also address the governor's argument that legislative immunity cannot trump the separation of powers doctrine, thus making him immune [to] being subpoenaed. It is true that the separation of powers doctrine safeguards the independence of each branch of the government and protects it from domination and interference by the others. Nevertheless, separation of powers does not mean that a sitting executive may never be called to task by the Legislature," he said.

SENATORS

From Page 1

process is new to everyone in the CNMI.

In response to *Saipan Tribune*'s inquiry yesterday, Sen. Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan) said the House's Articles of Impeachment is on the agenda as unfinished business. DeLeon Guerrero said she is not sure yet what will happen when the session begins.

Sen. Paul A. Manglona (Ind-Rota) said yesterday that he is still considering the whole impeachment proceedings, which he described as "unfair and unjust"—a trial without a prosecutor and without impeachment records.

DeLeon Guerrero, Manglona, and Sen. Teresita A. Santos (Ind-Rota) did not participate in Monday's continuation of the impeachment trial after they notified Senate President Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian) that they are temporarily recusing themselves from the impeachment proceedings until such time the Superior Court hears and rules on pending motions in a lawsuit requesting the court to issue a temporary restraining order to stop the impeachment trial.

Manglona is one of three plaintiffs who sued the Senate.

There are nine senators, but Sen. Vinnie F. Sablan (R-Saipan), who is Torres' running mate in the November 2022 election, and Sen. Justo Quitugua (R-Saipan) have already recused from the proceedings. Quitugua said the governor's maternal grandfather is his mother's sibling.

Aside from the three minority bloc senators, the remaining four senators involved in the trial are Hofschneider, Sens. Victor B. Hocog (R-Rota), Francisco Cruz (R-Tinian), and Karl King-Nabors (R-Tinian).

The CNMI Constitution requires two-thirds of the full Senate—or six senators—to vote "yes" to convict and remove Torres from office.

Anthony Aguon, the lead counsel for Torres' legal team, said at the start of the trial Friday that since the House has chosen not file an impeachment record or any other evidence in support of their six Articles of Impeachment and has chosen not to enter any appearance and as a result are without an impeachment prosecutor, Torres could technically just sit back and do nothing at all.

Rep. Christina Sablan (D-Saipan), who is running for governor under the Democratic Party in the November election, appears to have conceded that Torres will not be removed from office with the impeachment trial.

Sablan stated during the trial's public comments portion Monday that this mockery of a "trial" will end soon enough and that the verdict is already known.

"One thing is clear: our quest for justice and accountability will not end with the Senate," Sablan said.

PUBLIC

From Page 1

me," she said, adding that they have made strides to improve the Office of Public Auditor's internal processes while continuing to carry out the organization's official mandates.

Peter said they have worked hard to stay proactive, maximize their resources, and made considerable progress.

She cited her team's key accomplishments so far, including the digital transformation for both the audit and investigations divisions in which, according to her, the team is well on their way to digitizing their processes and eliminating waste.

She also noted the rehabilitation of their existing buildings, including securing a third building that will house the executive and administrative team to allow for better customer support and document process and to stand up a training center for OPA and CNMI government employees.

Peter said OPA hopes to conduct government ethics trainings and promote education for government employees in areas of demand on-site.

She added that OPA has been proactive this year and has engaged with the CNMI's single audit activities by performing audit test procedures for major federal programs.

Peter said they also have met with key leaders of large autonomous agencies to establish closer working relationships and to better engage with audit activities.

She said OPA has transformed in critical areas to ensure capabilities in executing on the office's mandates, increased its engagement with autonomous agencies, and focused on high-risk areas for future audits.

Torres appointed Peter to serve as public auditor In November 2020, replacing Michael Pai, who served the position for 12 years.

Peter is a certified public accountant and has over 20 years of accounting experience with Deloitte in the CNMI and Seattle, Washington. She also served as senior finance leader, senior accountant, senior manager, and accounting manager for Boeing Co.

In January 2021, the Senate confirmed Peter's appointment as a public auditor of the CNMI. In December 2020, the House of Representatives confirmed her appointment.

In March 2021, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho administered her oath of office.

DPS unveils new facility for its K9 Unit

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

The CNMI Department of Public Safety unveiled Monday its new K9 Unit facility just in time for the celebration of National Police Week.

Dozens of men and women in blue gathered at the DPS K9 Unit facility on Capital Hill to unveil the newly renovated facility that will now serve as a home for seven Florida-trained K9 dogs that will soon accompany DPS officers patrol the streets of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

According to DPS Chief Robert Guerrero, the renovation of what was an abandoned building has been in the works for months and the construction done to turn the place into a home for these newly acquired K9s, down to the purchase of the K9s themselves, was a joint effort between the CNMI Office of the Governor, Department of Finance with help from DPS and Department of Corrections as well.

"This program, the K9 units, is essentially the governor's program, with help from Department of Finance. I don't know the exact cost right now simply because we bought things as we needed it. We thank the governor for the support that we needed to get this done," he said.

The facility is equipped with seven individual kennels for each K9, a shower room, a storage room, a conference room, and a secured backyard that is easily accessible through a small door behind each kennel.

The K9s, he said, will serve as attack dogs as well as tracking dogs to further aid police officers apprehend suspects.

Five dogs will be stationed on Saipan while the other two will be stationed on Tinian and Rota.

"These police dogs, like most police dogs, are attack dogs. They are an officer's partner out on the field. The plan with these dogs are for these dogs to be on every shift. So basically for 24-hour periods, there'll be a dog on the street at all times to apprehend suspects or, God forbid, a suspect or an inmate escapes," he said.

Guerrero added that these dogs are well trained from Florida and have been in training since they were pups for the sole purpose of becoming K9s.

They were also specifically chosen by the DPS officers who will serve as their handlers.

In addition, Guerrero said these officers will also undergo training in the next few weeks to properly handle these K9s.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Marianas Tourism Month Logo Contest deadline on May 23

Submission for the Tourism Month Logo Contest must be made to the Marianas Visitors Authority by 5pm on May 23, 2022. Students in grades 9-12 are asked to incorporate the slogans "Marianas Tourism Month" and "Tourism is Everybody's Business" in their vision of the future of travel. Prizes are: $500 for first place, $200 for second place, and $100 for third place. Rules and Parental Release Forms are downloadable from the www.mymarianas.com homepage. ***(MVA)***

Marianas Tourism Month Cleanup on May 27, 28, 31

The public is invited to join the Marianas Tourism Month Cleanup on Saturday, May 28, 2022, in Marpi, Saipan. Participants will meet at 8:30am at the Last Command Post. Cleanups on Tinian will be held on May 27 and 31, 2022. For more information, contact Marianas Visitors Authority Community Projects specialist Jack Aranda at (670) 664-.3200/1 or communityprojects@mymarianas.com. ***(MVA)***

Water service interruption in As Lito, portions of As Perdido, Tottotville, Koblerville

There will be an emergency water service interruption for Commonwealth Utilities Corp. customers in the areas of As Lito and portions of As Perdido, Tottotville, and Koblerville from Saint Jude Church to the ABCD Market on Thursday, May 19, 2022, from 8:30am to 12:30pm.

The emergency water interruption is to allow CUC operations personnel to repair a main service lateral on Atool Place off the Chaim Monsignor Martinez main road. Customers should expect restoration of water services soon after the repairs.

For more information, contact the CUC Hotline (236-4333) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporationn. ***(PR)***

Water service interruption in Susupe on Friday

There will be a scheduled water service interruption on Friday, May 20, 2022, from 9am to 3pm for Commonwealth Utilities Corp. customers in Susupe, specifically the facilities of Bureau of Motor Vehicle, Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center, Commonwealth Election Commission's Office, Attorney General's Office, Joeten Kiyu Public Library, Guma Hustisia, Department of Public Safety, Susupe Fire Station, IT&E headquarters, and the Department of Corrections.

This will allow CUC's contractor for the Islandwide Meter Installation Project to eliminate the old 4-inch diameter gate valve on Tekken Street in Susupe near the Department of Corrections. Water service to the affected areas will resume soon after the elimination.

This project is part of the Islandwide Meter Installation Project to provide a more reliable water system to the people of the CNMI. It is funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and aims to address the non-revenue water problems in the CNMI.

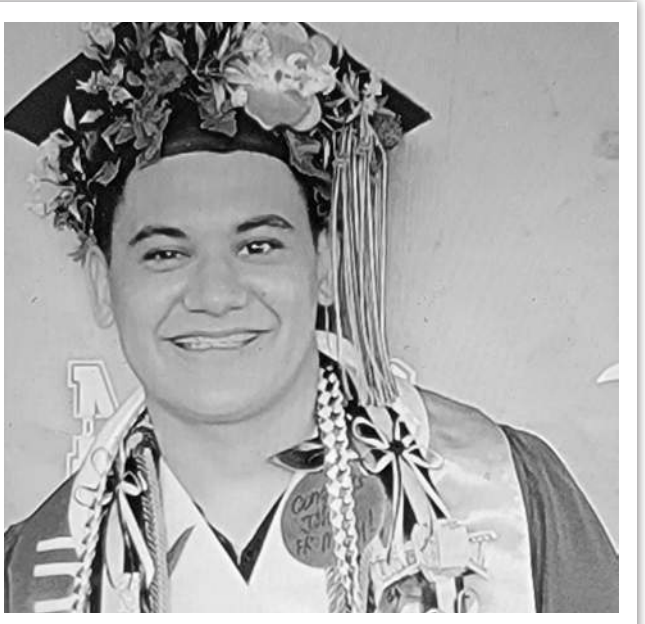
For more information, contact the CUC Hotline (236-4333) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/). ***(PR)***

New Amelia Earhart monument corporation formed

The Amelia Earhart Memorial Monument, Inc. is announcing its dissolution as a corporation and, at the same time, is announcing a creation of a new corporation, the Amelia Earhart Saipan Memorial Monument Inc.

The creation of the new corporation will allow it to apply for a Federal Employer Identification Number, seek federal non-profit status, the 501(c)(3), and be chartered in the CNMI as a non-profit corporation, with a goal to honor and respect Amelia Earhart's visit to Saipan before World War II, with a memorial monument on Saipan.

All assets and liabilities of AEMMI are to be transferred to AESMMI. The new officers and new board of directors were established during the meeting of AEMMI on April 6, 2022 on Saipan. ***(PR)***



INTERACT PRESIDENT CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Congratulations to newly-elected Interact president, Jonathan Wolf. Interact is Rotary International's service club for young people ages 12 to 18

pgb
PEPSI GUAM BOTTLING

PEPSI GUAM BOTTLING
NOW HIRING

- Tech Service Supervisor (F/T)
- Warehouse Supervisor (F/T)
- Facility Maintenance Supervisor (F/T)
- General Accountant (F/T)
- Refrigeration Tech (F/T)
- Vending Tech (F/T)
- Water Treatment Operator (F/T)
- Marketing Coordinator (F/T)
- Mechanic Helper (F/T)
- Sales Merchandiser (F/T)
- Warehouse Palletizer (P/T)
- 5-Gallon Helper (P/T)

Interested applicants may submit their resume via email to mary@pgbguam.com

For more information, please call HR at 671-646-6941 (Ext 105)

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport
P.O. Box 501055 Saipan MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 | Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail: cpa.admin@pticom.com
Website: https://cnmiports.com

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 02-2022

Opening date: May 16, 2022 **Closing date: June 03, 2022**

Positions: **SAIPAN:**
(1) Custodial-I

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official sealed transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and required documents must be submitted to the ***CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or CPA Administration Office Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport.*** Failure to provide any of the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. Certain vacancies may require written and/or physical test. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening, 10-year Criminal History Record Check and 49 CFR Part 1542.209(d) Requirements. CPA reserves the right to waive or implement other qualifications to meet its needs. The deadline for submission of applications and required documents to the CPA Administration Office (Saipan) or at the Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport is no later than ***5:00P.M. on Friday, June 03, 2022.***

Detailed information on qualifications and position descriptions for the above positions may be picked up along with the application form from Monday-Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., except on holidays, at the CPA Administration Office (2nd Floor) of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Arrival Terminal or CPA Admin. Office at the Tinian International Airport or at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport. For additional information, please contact the CPA Human Resources Office by email at lorna.tenorio@cnmiports.com or by phone at (670)237-6500.

CPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and CPA hires those who are legally entitled to employment in the CNMI.

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
CUC-RFP-22-026

LEASE OF OFFICE/WAREHOUSE SPACE FOR CUC POWER DIVISION TRANSMISSION & DISTRIBUTION SECTION, SAIPAN CNMI

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from firms for the lease of office & warehouse spaces for CUC Power Division, Transmission & Distribution Section in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $50.00 (non-refundable) for one RFP package set. Prospective Proposers must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division.

One (1) original and four (5) hard copies of your submission must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC-RFP-22-026, Lease of Office/Warehouse Space for CUC Power Division Transmission and Distribution Section, Saipan, CNMI"* to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **May 20, 2022 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. All proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

All proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. The proposers are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on May 5, 2022** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC, Purchasing Officer via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Lee Lieto, CUC, Power Division Manager via email address lee.lieto@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC, Purchasing Technician, Senior via email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

MVA's Diaz, Duenas recognized for excellent public service

The Marianas Visitors Authority was joined by Gov. Ralph C. Torres and other dignitaries on May 5, 2022, in recognizing its top and longest-serving employees, including Employee of the Year Edward Diaz and Leadership Award recipient Martin Duenas.

Community Projects coordinator Diaz coordinates numerous projects and events under the MVA's Community Projects Division, including the annual Saipan Marathon and the first ever Hafa Adai Tirow Summer Jam in 2021.

"Ed's quality of work always delivers an impressively organized and functional event. Ed has a very disciplined organizational skill that ensures that the job gets done not only in a timely matter but also with little to no setbacks," said Duenas, who is Diaz's supervisor. "All of the events that Ed organized during the review period attracted a significant number of participants, and all safety measures were in place to ensure that all had a great and safe event. Ed continues to have a positive approach to working on projects, as well as when working with fellow staff, which is very important in these challenging times."

MVA

Staff and managers of Marianas Visitors Authority are congratulated by MVA board vice chair Gloria Cavanagh, in white, and MVA managing director Priscilla M. Iakopo, eighth from right, as they receive their service awards on May 5, 2022, at the MVA office in San Jose, Saipan, during Public Service Recognition Week.

Duenas, who was also recognized as one of the longest-serving employee at the MVA with over 31 years of service, received the leadership award as manager of the Community Projects Division.

"I am deeply humbled to be selected amongst the other great leaders and managers here at the MVA. For me it's all about my passion for the work I do here at the MVA; the reward or recognition is secondary and will follow if you work diligently to accomplish your goals and objectives," said Duenas. "I really enjoy working with our community partners to regularly put out much anticipated events and projects for our public and, most importantly, for our tourists to enjoy. I would like to extend my utmost appreciation to my hardworking staff Ed, Ray, Jack and Valencia. I could not have accomplished all the many things that needed to be done without their full support."

Receiving length of service awards were Duenas and Alfred L. Maratita (31+ years), Judy C. Torres and Benedicta L. Borja (30+ years), Thelma F. Boyer (29+ years), Maria C. Muna and Brenda B. Repeki (21+ years), Valencia V. Tenorio (20+ years), Diaz (17+ years), Raymond A. Villagomez (7+ years), David A. Atalig (6+ years), and Janica Q. Lizama (5+ years).

"During the most difficult time, our managers and staff have been there, no questions asked," said MVA managing director Priscilla M. Iakopo. "Through good times, they have been there. They truly deserve appreciation and recognition for the hard work they do, and I am privileged to manage an excellent team."

Also in attendance were Civil Service Commission chair Jake Maratita, Office of Personnel manager Frances Salas, and members of the MVA board of directors. ***(MVA)***

Marianas Visitors Authority employees are recognized on May 5, 2022, at the MVA office in San Jose, Saipan, during Public Service Recognition Week. From left, MVA Community Projects coordinator Jack Aranda, Civil Service Commission chair Jake Maratita, Office of Personnel manager Frances Salas, MVA Leadership Award recipient Martin Duenas, MVA Employee of the Year Ed Diaz, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, MVA managing director Priscilla M. Iakopo, MVA Community Projects coordinator Ray Villagomez, and MVA board vice chair Gloria Cavanagh. CNMI OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR)

Trades Technician I Alfred Maratita of Marianas Visitors Authority, fourth left, is recognized on May 9, 2022, at the MVA office in San Jose, Tinian for over 31 years of service. From left, 18th Municipal Council of Rota secretary Jim Atalig, MVA board director Aqida Quitugua,18th Municipal Council of Rota chair Jonavan Lizama, Maratita, Rota Mayor Efraim Atalig, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, and vice president of Public Service Recognition Committee Randall Pangelinan. MVA

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

ELEMENTARY/SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHERS (2): Elementary School Teacher – Prepare, teach, and facilitate lessons and monitor and manage students in classroom in accordance to the set objectives of the school curriculum. Give assignments, grade, and provide feedback on student work. Complete general administrative work and participate in extracurricular activities. Education: Bachelor's in Primary or Secondary Education; Experience: 24 Months as an Elementary, Middle, or Secondary School Teacher. Send Resume to: Green Meadow School, Attn: Milagros Songcuan, P.O. Box 502862, MP 96950.

Office of the Public Auditor

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Website: http://opacnmi.com
1236 Yap Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 501399, Saipan, MP 96950
E-mail Address: mail@opacnmi.com
Phone: (670) 322-6481 | Fax: (670) 322-7812

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Opening Date: May 4, 2022 Closing Date: May 18, 2022

POSITIONS:	EXAMINATION NO.
Auditor II and Auditor III	OPA-22-002

For more information, please visit our website at www.opacnmi.com or come visit us at our office in Capitol Hill. Interested persons may also pick up a copy of the Examination Announcement at the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) in Garapan. Applicants are required to complete the OPA Employment Application form.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP22-CHCC/CGC-014

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: MAY 20TH, 2022 TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)

"RECOVERY SUPPORT SERVICES"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE - JOSE T. VILLAGOMEZ CENTER FOR DIALYSIS BUILDING, LOWER NAVY HILL GARAPAN, SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS, 7:30 AM – 4:30 PM.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

NOTICE OF INTENT TO FILE DISSOLUTION

Please take notice that Cordillera Association (Non-Profit Organization) intends to file articles of dissolution with the CNMI Registrar of Corporations anytime after this notice is made.

Anyone with a claim against the corporation is requested to submit it in accordance with the following:

1. The claim shall be made in writing and shall state the name of the claimant, the amount of the claim, the factual basis for the claim, and the name, mailing address, email address, and telephone number of the person who may be contacted by the corporation with respect to the claim.
2. The claim may be sent to: P.O. Box 10001, PMB 429, Saipan MP 96950 or call 670-233-1559
3. A claim against the corporation will be barred unless a processing to enforce the claim is commenced within five years after the publication of the notice.

Cordillera Association (Non-Profit Organization)
P.O. Box 10001, PMB 429, Saipan MP 96950

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP22-CHCC/HIT-013

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: MAY 20TH, 2022 TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)

"PROCUREMENT OF CHCC EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT NETWORK EXPANSION"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE - JOSE T. VILLAGOMEZ CENTER FOR DIALYSIS BUILDING, LOWER NAVY HILL GARAPAN, SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS, 7:30 AM – 4:30 PM.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

NOTICE OF INTENT TO FILE DISSOLUTION

Please take notice that Ice Berg Corporation intends to file articles of dissolution with the CNMI Registrar of Corporations anytime after this notice is made.

Anyone with a claim against the corporation is requested to submit it in accordance with the following:

1. The claim shall be made in writing and shall state the name of the claimant, the amount of the claim, the factual basis for the claim, and the name, mailing address, email address, and telephone number of the person who may be contacted by the corporation with respect to the claim.
2. The claim may be sent to: ericorot@gmail.com or call 671-777-5540
3. A claim against the corporation will be barred unless a processing to enforce the claim is commenced within five years after the publication of the notice.

Ice Berg Corporation
PMB 1141 P.O. Box 10003
Saipan MP 96950

CCDF completes orientation on science of early learning

The CNMI Child Care Development Fund Program, in partnership with Evergreen Learning, completed the first CNMI Brain Builders-Science of Early Learning Orientation with its partner agencies last Friday, April 22, 2022.

CCDF recently established partnerships with the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs' Division of Youth Services, CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s Community Guidance Center - System of Care, and Joeten-Kiyu Public Library. Through these partnerships, CCDF will be able to connect with parents and families in the community to implement the Science of Early Learning Initiative, which is brand new to the CNMI.

The Orientation was held at the Kagman Community Center from 2pm to 4pm and was facilitated by Melissa Palacios, Science of Early Learning coordinator, and Rayanna Fitial, Science of Early Learning administrative assistant. In attendance were DYS Community Development specialist Maria Olopai, DYS Community Development technician Josephine Kapileo, and Council on Developmental Disabilities administrative assistant Kyanna Norita. Philip Santos, CHCC-CGC System of Care lead family coordinator, previously attended the orientation virtually.

At the orientation, members of the partner agencies had an opportunity to gain information about the Science of Early Learning Initiative, the approaches that will be taken for the implementation, the curriculum that will be used and the resources available to activate the program.

Mind in the Making Curriculum provides knowledge about the scientific tenets of early childhood development and how to boost life skills for children ages 0-8. MITM establishes "why we have to elevate the importance of the first 5 years of child development," particularly brain development.

Vroom, an early learning program, offers tips and tools that are used throughout early childhood systems, community agencies that provide services to children, and other networks. Vroom is the tool that offers strategies that parents, families, and caregivers can apply to use everyday moments to build children's brains.

Together, MITM and Vroom are complementary offerings responding to the national landscape of early learning. Both early learning programs are asset-based and start with the relationships that are built between caregivers in the lives of children. Now that these partner agencies have completed their orientation, they are ready to proceed with the next series of trainings. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The CNMI Child Care Development Fund Program, in partnership with Evergreen Learning, completed last Friday, April 22, 2022, the first CNMI Brain Builders-Science of Early Learning Orientation with its partner agencies at the Kagman Community Center and facilitated by Melissa Palacios, Science of Early Learning coordinator, and Rayanna Fitial, Science of Early Learning administrative assistant. In attendance were DYS Community Development specialist Maria Olopai, DYS Community Development technician Josephine Kapileo, and Council on Developmental Disabilities administrative assistant Kyanna Norita. Not in the photo is Philip Santos, CHCC-CGC System of Care Lead Family coordinator, who previously attended the orientation virtually.

Federal financial aid increased to $6.8K for NMC students

Prospective and current students of Northern Marianas College may be eligible for up to $6,895 in Pell Grants for the upcoming fall and spring semesters. Students who are looking to access these funds are encouraged to fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid before NMC's fall 2022 semester begins on Aug. 15, 2022.

The Federal Financial Aid program is administered by the U.S. Department of Education. Through the program's various types of grants, loans, and scholarships, the program is the largest financial aid provider in the U.S.

The FAFSA is available online at fafsa.ed.gov and can also be completed by using the myStudentAid smartphone app available for iOS and Android. NMC's school code is 015746.

To verify eligibility for Pell Grants or for a physical copy of the FAFSA, applicants can contact the NMC Financial Aid Office through email at fao@marianas.edu or call 237-6791. Applicants can also stop by the Financial Aid Office from 9am to 4pm, Monday to Friday.

NMC offers several degree and certificate programs, including a bachelor of science in education (concentration in early childhood education, elementary education, rehabilitation and human services, or special education), bachelor of science in business management (concentration in accounting or without concentration); associate of arts in business, associate of applied science in business administration (emphasis in accounting, business management, or computer applications), associate of applied science in hospitality management, associate of arts in liberal arts (emphasis in education, health and physical education, pre-engineering, social work, or without emphasis), associate of science in nursing, associate of science in agriculture, associate of science in natural resource management, associate of applied science in criminal justice, and associate of science in fire science technology. The certificate programs at NMC include Basic Law Enforcement, Business Management, Computer Applications, Early Childhood Education, Fire Science Technology, Hospitality Operations, Nursing Assistant, and Small Business Management.

For more information about the fall 2022 semester, contact the Office of Admissions and Records at oar@marianas.edu or visit www.marianas.edu. ***(NMC)***

Energy Division launches Energy Star Appliance Rebate Program in the NMI

The CNMI Energy Division Office announced last Friday the launching of the CNMI – Energizing Insular Communities – Energy Efficient/Energy Star Appliance Rebate Program for the second year, to assist interested residents in lowering their home's energy use and cost of utilities by offering appliance rebate vouchers, as a financial incentive, to redeem at participating local vendors or retailers to receive an in-store instant rebate, for the replacement of old in-efficient appliances with qualified, Energy-Efficient/Energy Star rated products. Due to funding limitations, the number of rebate vouchers are limited and will be available on a first-come first-served basis, until funds run out, for Saipan, Tinian, and Rota residents.

In consideration of the high rising cost of fuel and other financial hardships that might be affecting residents due to current existing economic conditions, the Division of Energy will be launching the program in a manner that lessens the need for residents to travel by vehicle numerous times to reduce unnecessary and unwanted fuel costs, by allowing interested residents to reserve a program application and confirmation number in advance, by contacting the Division of Energy Office and providing all the necessary program requirement information. Only one program application, per household, is allowed for: one refrigerator; one clothes washer; and up to two room air-conditioners (window-type or split-type units).

Once complete information is obtained and verified, residents will be issued a confirmation number that is unique only to the caller, which must be presented, as proof, to visiting designated officials of the Division of Energy for verification to receive a program application for rebate vouc

hers. Confirmation numbers shall not be shared with any other person and shall only be presented by the holder. (Additional requirements or conditions may apply.)

Provide the following information:

- Full name on a valid government-issued ID
- Residential address (installation address)
- Contact number
- Commonwealth Utilities account number (installation address)
- If a tenant of a rental property, additional information will be required for verification.

Energy Office Contact Information:

- Maile H. Iakopo, program specialist, (670) 664-4480
- Vincent S. Attao. program manager, (670) 664-4482

The Division of Energy will begin accepting telephone calls from interested residents on Tinian to reserve a program application for appliance rebate vouchers: From May 16, 2022, to May 20, 2022, from 7:30am to 11:30am and 12:30pm to 4:30pm.

Furthermore, in order to issue rebate vouchers in a timely and most expeditious manner, the Division of Energy urges residents to obtain and make readily available for submission the information required to complete an application, as follows: (Additional requirements or conditions may apply.)

Copy of valid government-issued ID

A copy of the latest CUC billing

Make and model number of existing old appliances to be replaced

If a tenant of a rental property, a copy of the lease/rental agreement and landlord and tenant certification (provided by Division of Energy)

Staff members of the Division of Energy will be on Tinian to distribute program applications to residents with confirmation numbers for submission, and to process and issue appliance rebate vouchers, as follows: May 25 and 26, from 9am to 4:30pm, Tinian Youth Center.

The list below reflects the voucher amounts for the islands.

Qualified Products	Saipan	Tinian and Rota
Refrigerators 14.3 cu.ft. or higher	$400.00	$500.00
Clothes Washers 3.0 cu.ft. or higher	$300.00	$400.00
Window AC 12.0 EER or higher		
(5000-8000 BTU)	$120.00	$160.00
(over 8000 BTU)	$130.00	$175.00
Split AC 18.0 SEER or higher		
(9000-18000 BTU)	$300.00	$400.00
(over 18000 BTU)	$550.00	$650.00

Note that rebate vouchers only cover a portion of the amount of the total price of the units listed above. Voucher recipients are responsible for paying the remaining balance on the amount.

Appliances must replace existing models. Residents with newly constructed or renovated homes are eligible to apply for new purchases of qualified Energy Efficient or Energy Star rated appliances. Residents impacted by the devastations of Typhoon Mangkhut and Super Typhoon Yutu are eligible, provided they have not already received similar assistance from local, federal, or private entities.

Due to the continuing threat of COVID-19, the public is required to observe and comply with all health and safety protocols. Masks are required at all times during the program services hours of operations.

For additional program information or questions, contact the Division of Energy Office at 664-4480/1. ***(PR)***

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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EDITORIAL

The day could be approaching when Supreme Court rulings are openly defied

The breakdown of U.S. Supreme Court legitimacy may already have begun as the public perception of the court morphs from one of respectful observances of the law as interpreted by the nation's top judicial scholars to a view of them as little more than political hacks in black robes. Various states, including Missouri, are on record openly defying Congress by effectively ignoring federal legislative mandates. It could be just a matter of time before defiance of the Supreme Court follows the same track.

Various states, including Missouri, already are openly sidestepping federal marijuana laws, legalizing use of the drug even though the federal government outlaws marijuana as a Schedule I drug equivalent to heroin, LSD and methamphetamine. A steady stream of states, starting with Colorado, decided to defy the federal government to the point where federal authorities make minimal efforts to enforce their own laws these days.

Missouri has taken its defiance a step further by asserting a right to forbid police from enforcing any federal gun laws that don't have a companion Missouri state law. Missouri's Second Amendment Protection Act has forced local police to cancel cooperative arrangements with federal agencies for fear of losing their state funding if they're caught helping enforce any semblance of a federal gun law not recognized by Missouri.

This is how quickly federal authority can erode when states decide to go their own way. The U.S. Supreme Court and Congress might be only a few steps away from prompting similar defiance by states that refuse to recognize federal supremacy regarding abortion rights.

After a draft Supreme Court ruling leaked that could overturn abortion rights, Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell stated that a Republican-controlled Congress might move to establish a federal ban on abortion. California is already working on a law that would protect anyone involved in an abortion from being extradited if charged in another state for an abortion offense.

"We can't trust Scotus (the Supreme Court) to protect the right to abortion, so we'll do it ourselves," Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom tweeted. "Women will remain protected here."

The court's politicization is no longer something justices can hide. The three most recent arrivals to the bench misled members of Congress by indicating they regarded Roe v. Wade as settled law, not to be overturned. Justice Clarence Thomas' wife is an open supporter of former President Donald Trump and his efforts to subvert democracy.

The Supreme Court has no police force or military command to impose enforcement of its rulings. Until now, the deference that states have shown was entirely out of respect for the court's place among the three branches of government. If states choose simply to ignore the court following a Roe reversal, justices will have only themselves to blame for the erosion of their stature in Americans' minds.

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We're losing the fight against superbugs, but there's still hope

By ANNABELLE DE ST. MAURICE
Los Angeles Times

Annabelle de St. Maurice is an associate professor of pediatric infectious diseases at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, and head of pediatric infection control and co-chief infection prevention officer at UCLA Health.

As parents, we inherently want to protect our children. We tell them stories with happy endings and reassure them that there aren't monsters hiding under the bed.

But there's an enemy living among us that poses a fatal threat to kids and adults alike — and we're simply not doing enough to stop it.

These enemies are "superbugs" — bacteria and fungi that are resistant to antibiotics and other medications. All microbes, from everyday bacteria to killer superbugs, are constantly evolving. And paradoxically, exposing microbes to antimicrobials — whether a common antibiotic for strep throat or a potent antifungal treatment given in the hospital — can make them stronger in the long run.

While most of the microbes die when treated, the ones that survive can reproduce. These new generations of microbes can build up resistance to certain antimicrobials, rendering some medications less effective or ineffective over time.

Unfortunately, this natural evolutionary process is speeding up for several reasons. We greatly overuse antibiotics in patients with viruses, like the flu, common colds and bronchitis — without benefit. And modern medical care has increased the demand for antibiotics. Advances in cancer care, organ transplants and surgeries such as hip and knee replacements have become much more common. These procedures can extend and improve life, but patients often require antimicrobials because they are at high risk of developing infections.

Bacteria are mutating at a speed that outpaces the development of antibiotics. Penicillin was discovered in 1941, but it wasn't until 1967 that penicillin-resistant Streptococcus pneumococcus was first identified. By contrast, consider an antibiotic for multidrug-resistant bacteria released in 2015, called ceftazidime-avibactam. That same year a strain of bacteria emerged that was resistant to this new antibiotic.

Drug-resistant pathogens are one of the greatest healthcare threats of our time — for everyone, everywhere, including adults and children. More than 1.2 million people died worldwide from antibiotic-resistant infections in 2019 alone. Multidrug-resistant infections are on the rise in kids. More of these infections originate outside of our hospitals and within our communities.

Without effective antibiotics, run-of-the-mill pneumonia or skin infections can become life-threatening.

COVID-19 exacerbated the situation. Amid the widespread uncertainty and limited treatment options at the beginning of the pandemic, doctors often used antibiotics to treat COVID-19 patients as they tried to help them. Patients may also have been given antibiotics in instances in which it was difficult to distinguish between bacterial pneumonia, which requires antibiotics, and COVID-19.

Hospital stewardship programs — which manage the careful and optimal use of antimicrobial treatments — also had to redirect their limited resources away from antibiotic use to focus on the complex administration of COVID-19 therapeutics. And severely ill patients on ventilators were at a higher risk of contracting secondary infections, especially while their immune system was weakened.

These factors led to an increase in drug-resistant infections acquired in hospitals during the pandemic. Drug-resistant staph infections, MRSA, jumped 34% for hospitalized patients in the last quarter of 2020 compared with the same period in 2019.

Proportionately, those numbers have the biggest impact on California, which has the most coronavirus cases of any state. Los Angeles, San Diego, Riverside, Orange, San Bernardino, and Santa Clara counties have the highest number of COVID-19 cases and deaths in the state.

Prior to COVID-19, we made initial progress in the fight against antimicrobial resistance. In 2014, California was the first state to pass a law requiring antimicrobial stewardship programs in hospitals. In 2019, Medicare began requiring antibiotic stewardship programs.

Some modest federal investments have also been made in antimicrobial research and development, but not enough to generate the pipeline patients need. We must increase support for antimicrobial stewardship practices, which were under-resourced even before the pandemic. Teaching practitioners to safely use and monitor antimicrobial treatments is a significant step.

We also need to develop novel antimicrobial medicines ca-

See SUPERBUGS on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Election Times Reaction Rhymes

A five-line poem by American poet Emily Dickinson caught my eyes as I was taking a break from reading and writing about local politics. Politics were on my mind and her poem inspired me. I lengthened my poem into sonnet form and appropriated some of her words and her use of capitalization. Dickinson's complete poem and my others follow here:

There are Two Mays

(She used her first line as title)

There are two Mays
And then a Must
And after that a Shall.
How infinite the compromise
That indicates I will!
—Emily Dickinson (1830 -1886)

There are Two Women

There are two Women and then there are four Men
After that a Question: If Compromise what then
Vote by a Suggestion or by an Impression
One of the two women is my former Student
Of the men some I've talked to every Now and Then
My bias toward the Women hurts my being Prudent
All six candidates are elected now, four are Men
The two Women are running for top post! reasons to Boast
Emily Dickinson talks about Compromise
Voting day nears we can't wait for Infinity
Let's listen to their speeches, who's most Sage, most Wise
Then pray to St. Jude* and the Holy Trinity
I'd like to digress from this nonpartisan Spin
Learn what you can, VOTE. May the best two people Win.

LITERARY NOOK

By JOEY 'PEPE BATBON' CONNOLLY
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Joey aka Pepe Batbon is a retired educator who taught in the CNMI, NOLA, and LVNV. He is a sonnet practitioner who enjoys stargazing.

**St. Jude Thaddeus the apostle is the patron saint of Lost Causes. For transparency sake, Sen. Jude U. Hofschneider is also my former student. I respect his helping the people of Tinian.*

Political Rallies Held by Poetic Candidates

(In Batbon's Brane, a parallel universe reached through neural fibers in my corpus callosum, a universe with parity par excellence)*

Calling all preachers, teachers, mothers, and brothers
Cousins, aunties, uncles, kumpaires, kunados, and others
Calling younger and older sisters and their beloved misters
We welcome nonpartisan voters and voting resistors
Calling all grandpas, grandmas, and other man'amko
Please check your ballots carefully when voting you go
Todudu katpenteru, lancheru, yan bulala peskadot
Please make the Commonwealth better with your vote
Yan lokkue first-time voters we are glad that you did
Vote with your conscience there's no need to keep it hid
Those Pro and Con impeachment we welcome both sides
It was so farcical we're laughing to keep from crying insides
We humbly ask you to make your most honest vote
We will now humbly end our voting plea on that note.

**A "brane" is part of a cosmological theory that in a multiverse or mega-universe, many universes may reside right next to each other like slices of bread in a loaf of bread. The "brane" I found is less than the blink of my eye away and contains humor.*

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Once-in-a-lifetime chance for Luta and Tinian

The upcoming election is truly a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, especially for Luta and Tinian. While the election results on Saipan will surely play a big part in the overall political arena, it will be the vote on Luta and Tinian that will make the definitive statement about who will control the Senate. There is a good chance the Democrats will have control of the House and Executive Branch, but if the Senate remains under Republicans, we will surely see a Senate dead set on stopping everything the Democrats try to do, which is why it's so important that Luta and Tinian voters do their part to help change and fix our government.

As clearly seen from the Senate's kangaroo trial, it is vitally critical that the Democrats be given a real chance to have full control of our government. The biggest part of the change that is needed in the CNMI depends on the Senate and Luta and Tinian voters, as it will be the people of Luta and Tinian who will determine who controls the Senate. This is truly a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for Luta and Tinian to change our political arena and to change their chances for a better quality of life.

Everyone in the CNMI who has been paying attention to Luta and Tinian can attest to the fact that the economy and quality of life on Luta and Tinian have only continued to decline for the past 20 years or more. The same senators have been representing these islands for over 20 years and it should be clear now the senators on Luta and Tinian are part of the problem.

It's just horrific to see Luta and Tinian become virtual ghost towns when they had so much promise for tourism. What happened to Luta and Tinian before the pandemic is why I beg to ask the voters on Luta and Tinian what have your senators done for you and your economy. The CNMI needs Luta and Tinian to be part of the solution, not the problem.

I wish someone could do an investigative report on Luta's and Tinian's voting as there have been all kinds of horror stories about the voting on these two islands. Maybe some of our elected officials can even request the FBI to monitor this election. It's obvious we can't trust the present administration when it comes to political matters.

I truly hope this helps the voters on Luta and Tinian because the entire CNMI is depending on your vote.

Ambrose M. Bennett
Kagman III, Saipan

'Cease all earthmoving activities at PMG site'

This is to request an Open Government Act to review and inspect all documents relating to, relevant to, and reference to the properties and site of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium, the Francisco "Tun Ko" Palacios Ballfield, and the track-and-field located in San Jose Village, the traditional Chamorro village of *i Sengsong Katan Uda.*

As you are all aware, *I Sengsong Katan Uda* (San Jose village), the site of the Ada Gym, Tun Ko Ballfield, and the track-and-field, has been known for decades to be a highly sensitive ancient and traditional Chamorro cultural and heritage site.

Both the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs and Historic Preservation Office were aware of the cultural significance of *i Sengsong Katan Uda* since the digging in the early 2000s up to the mid-2000s for the construction and upgrade of the gymnasium, the baseball field, and the track of the sports complex. This traditional Chamorro village hosts ancient Chamorro human remains and artifacts. The archaeological digging at the site and the archaeological survey reported all these from the site in the past two decades.

Recently, the actions by those directly involved in the planning and development of the sports complex in preparation for the 2022 Pacific Mini Games has over-reached its needed development infrastructure. The sports event is only 32 days from game day on June 17. This amount of earthmoving and construction at this late time to game day needs to be answered by the those involved: the CNMI government, departments and agencies, including the Northern Marianas Sports Association, which is the custodian of the sports complex facility.

In the meantime, we ask that all earthmoving activities at the site shall cease until all records have been received, reviewed, and evaluated by an independent professional archeologist, and other professional individuals relevant to this desecration of our sacred heritage settlement site of *I Sengsong Katan Uda*.

Our sacred cultural heritage sites cannot continue to be destroyed just to make way for the construction and upgrade of the sports complex to host the Pacific Mini Games next month in June. These bulldozing of our sacred grounds only happened so quickly or just in the last month or so to begin construction of additional facilities when the games are only just two months away (at the time of bulldozing).

The notice for the CNMI as host of the Pacific Mini Games was known since several years ago. In fact, the PMG was to be held in the CNMI last year, 2021 but it was postposed to June 2022 because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Lastly, this facility must be named "Marianas Sports Complex" as it is mis-appropriately named "Oleai Sports Complex," referencing Woleai, an atoll in the Caroline Islands, which is an historical disinformation on the significance of this important traditional Chamorro village of *Katan Uda*. This village was later renamed "San Jose Village" after construction of the patron St. Joseph Church that was built for the village people, and since the Chamorros accepted the Catholic religion from the Spanish era in Sa'ipan. This is the factual history of the Chamorro heritage of their traditional village *Katan Uda*.

We look forward to your utmost cooperation on this important cultural and heritage issue that we are now faced with again after the desecration of i Sengsong Anaguan, Garapan's business district, to make way for the construction of the Best Sunshine Grand Mariana Casino and Imperial Pacific International Resort just seven years ago from March to June 2015.

Again, this request is hereby submitted under the CNMI's Open Government Act and the Federal Freedom of Information Act. We ask for your prompt response to inspect the records.

Liana M.S. Hofschneider
President, Matua: Council for Native Chamorro Advancement

SUPERBUGS

From Page 8

pable of defeating the superbugs that have grown resistant to previous generations of treatments. But market incentives are misaligned. Because doctors prudently limit their use of antimicrobials to avoid further resistance, there isn't high demand to sustain the development of new products, which take years of research and billions of dollars in investments.

As a result, many large biopharmaceutical companies have stopped antimicrobial research entirely. And many smaller start-ups have had success at first, only to face bankruptcy. That's part of the reason why there have been few new classes of antibiotics developed in the last 35 years.

This is a textbook case of a market failure, but government intervention can help realign market incentives.

The PASTEUR Act is a bipartisan bill in Congress that would establish a payment model for critically needed antimicrobials.

Currently, the government pays manufacturers based on the volume of drugs sold. But under PASTEUR, the government would enter into contracts with manufacturers and pay a predetermined amount for access to their novel antimicrobials — allowing scientists to innovate new treatments without fear of an insufficient return on investment due to low sales volumes.

Essentially, the bill would switch the government from a "pay-per-use" model for antimicrobials to a subscription-style model that pays for the value antimicrobials bring to society. By delinking payments to antimicrobial makers from sales volumes, the measure would stimulate investment in new antibiotics.

The bill would also provide resources to strengthen hospital antimicrobial stewardship programs, which help clinicians use antimicrobials prudently and help the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention closely monitor resistance. Hospitals should join public health leaders in supporting this legislation and invest more of their resources in their antimicrobial stewardship programs.

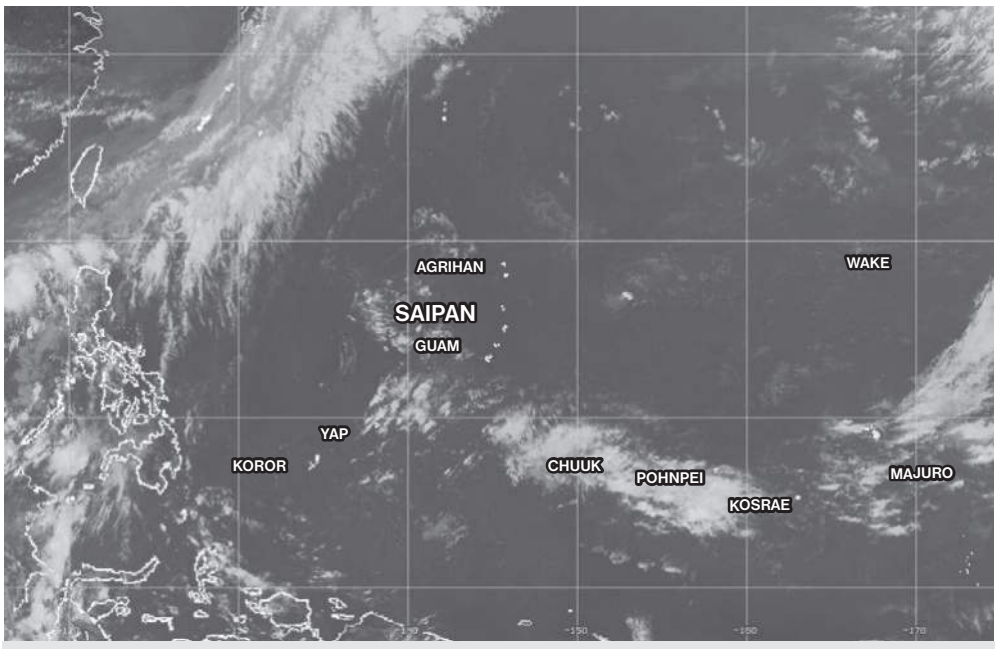
Unfortunately, superbugs aren't an easy enemy to defeat. We need to be fighting them more vigorously to ensure that they don't get around our best defenses.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	MONDAY
Sunny, with Isolated showers. East northeast wind 9 to 11 mph.	Mostly sunny, with solated showers. East wind 7 to 10 mph.	Partly cloudy,.	Sunny,.	Sunny,.
88° 75°	88° 75°	88° 75°	88° 75°	89° 75°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME:9:22 AM, TUESDAY, MAY 17, 2022

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Guam Doppler weather radar shows only a few showers moving through the Marianas Waters. An upper-level low is seen on satellite well to the east, near Wake Island. The buoys reveal combined seas of 3 to 5 feet, composed mainly of east trade-wind swell, some from a little north of east, and some from a little south of east.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	31 / 26 °F
Palau	Thunderstorms	29 / 25 °F
Yap	Thunderstorms	30 / 26 °F
Chuuk	Scattered Thunderstorms	30 / 26 °F
Pohnpei	Scattered Thunderstorms	30 / 25 °F
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	29 / 26 °F
Majuro	Thunderstorms	28 / 26 °F

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	05:47 AM	18:39 PM
Thursday	05:47 AM	18:39 PM
Friday	05:47 AM	18:39 PM
Saturday	05:47 AM	18:40 PM
Sunday	05:46 AM	18:40 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	07:23 PM	21:01 PM
Thursday	-	08:27 PM	22:07 PM
Friday	-	09:33 PM	23:07 PM
Saturday	-	10:38 PM	-
Sunday	00:01	11:39 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Mostly Cloudy	21 / 17 °F
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	32 / 16 °F
Hong Kong	Mostly Cloudy	25 / 22 °F
Honolulu	Scattered Thunderstorms	27 / 23 °F
London	Mostly Cloudy	23 / 13 °F
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	24 / 15°F
Manila	Thunderstorms	30 / 26 °F
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	14 / 8 °F
Miami	Mostly Sunny	30 / 25 °F
New York	Sunny	23 / 14 °F
Osaka	Sunny	26 / 15 °F
Paris	Partly Cloud	30 / 19 °F
Busan	Sunny	24 / 16 °F
Rome	Mostly Sunny	31 / 16 °F
Salem	Mostly Sunny	33 / 20 °F
San Francisco	Sunny	22 / 13 °F
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	25 / 13 °F
Tokyo	AM Clouds/PM Sun	23 / 15 °F
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	24 / 16 °F

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
03:11 AM	Low Tide	1.37
07:59 AM	High Tide	2.11
3:27 PM	Low Tide	-0.47
10:43 PM	High Tide	2.14

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

■ Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.

■ Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.

■ Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.

■ Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.

■ Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.

■ Create a household plan of action, https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html

■ Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

■ Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.

■ Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

■ Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:

• Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.

• Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

• Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

• Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mpand, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 1, 2022

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	6:35AM	7:15AM	1, 3, 6
UA117	9:50AM	10:35AM	2, 4, 5, 7

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	6:00AM	8:00AM	1, 3, 5, 6, 7
UA193	7:05PM	10:55PM	5 via Palau
UA183	7:10PM	9:10PM	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	6:35AM	9:10PM	1, 3, 6 via Guam
UA117/193	6:35AM	10:55PM	5 via Guam, Palau
UA117/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	2, 4, 5, 7 via Guam

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

TW9308	3:30PM	7:20PM	4, 7
7C3405	3:30PM	7:25PM	6
RS112	3:45PM	7:30PM	3, 6
7C3405	3:50PM	7:45PM	3
OZ624	4:00PM	7:40PM	3, 6

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

BX622	3:10PM	6:30PM	3, 7

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA116	5:00AM	5:45AM	1, 3, 6
UA116	8:00AM	8:45AM	5, 7
UA174	8:00AM	8:45AM	2, 4

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

PR110	10:35PM	4:35AM+1	2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA184	10:25PM	4:20AM+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA192	10:25PM	6:05AM+1	5 via Palau
UA184	11:50PM	5:40AM+1	5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA184/116	10:25PM	5:45AM+1	2, 5, 7 via Guam
UA184/116	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	1, 3 via Guam
UA184/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	4, 6 via Guam

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3406	8:30AM	2:10PM	6
RS111	8:45AM	2:05PM	3, 6
7C3406	8:50AM	2:30PM	3
TW9307	9:00AM	2:30PM	4, 7
OZ623	9:00AM	2:30PM	3, 6

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

BX621	8:00AM	1:10PM	3, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 18, 2021

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Daily
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Daily
1303	1:30PM	2:00PM	Tues/Wed/ Thurs/Fri
1304	3:30PM	4:00PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Daily
3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Daily
3103	1:30PM	3:00PM	Tues/Wed/ Thurs/Fri
3104	4:30PM	5:00PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1205	11:00	11:15	Daily
1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily
1212	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable

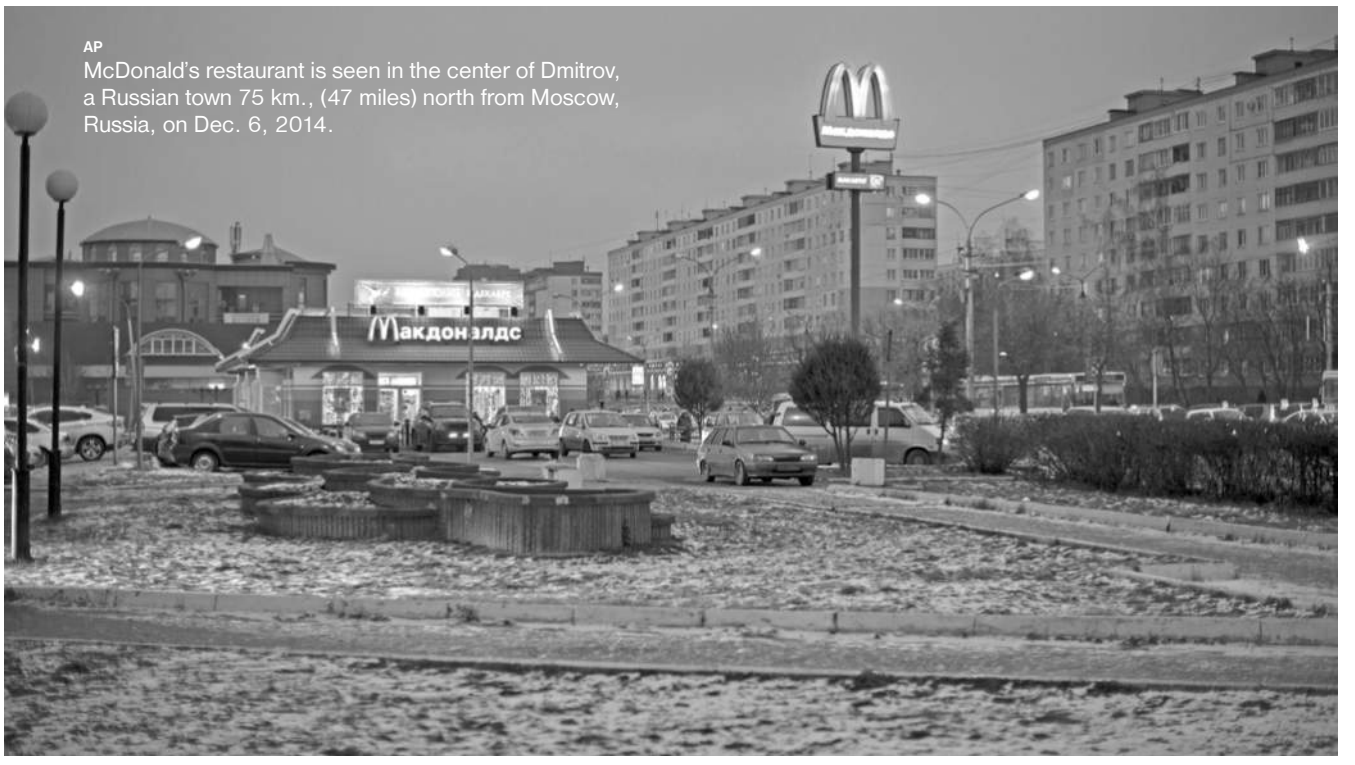
TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2105	11:30	11:45	Daily
2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily
2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

Business

McDonald's to sell Russia business, exit country

By DAVID KOENIG and DEE-ANN DURBIN
AP BUSINESS WRITERS



AP
McDonald's restaurant is seen in the center of Dmitrov, a Russian town 75 km., (47 miles) north from Moscow, Russia, on Dec. 6, 2014.

McDonald's is closing its doors in Russia, ending an era of optimism and increasing the country's isolation over its war in Ukraine.

The Chicago burger giant confirmed Monday that it is selling its 850 restaurants in Russia. McDonald's said it will seek a buyer who will employ its 62,000 workers in Russia, and will continue to pay those workers until the deal closes.

"Some might argue that providing access to food and continuing to employ tens of thousands of ordinary citizens, is surely the right thing to do," McDonald's President and CEO Chris Kempczinski said in a letter to employees. "But it is impossible to ignore the humanitarian crisis caused by the war in Ukraine."

McDonald's said it's the first time the company has ever "de-arched," or exited a major market. It plans to start removing golden arches and other symbols and signs with the company's name. McDonald's said it will also will keep its trademarks in Russia and take steps to enforce them if necessary.

McDonald's said in early March that it was temporarily closing its stores in Russia but would continue to pay its employees. It was a costly decision. Late last month, the company said it was losing $55 million each month due to the restaurant closures. It also lost $100 million worth of inventory.

McDonald's has also closed 108 restaurants in Ukraine and continues to pay its employees there.

Western companies have wrestled with extricating themselves from Russia, enduring the hit to their bottom lines from pausing or closing operations in the face of sanctions. Others have stayed in Russia at least partially, with some facing blowback.

French carmaker Renault said Monday that it would sell its majority stake in Russian car company Avtovaz and a factory in Moscow to the state — the first major nationalization of a foreign business since the war began.

Maxim Sytch, a professor of management and organizations at the University of Michigan's Ross School of Business, said McDonald's and others also face pressure from customers, employees and investors over their Russian operations.

"The era where companies could avoid taking a stance is over," Sytch said. "People want to be associated with companies that do the right thing. There's much more to business __ and life __ than maximizing profit margins."

McDonald's first restaurant in Russia opened in the middle of Moscow more than three decades ago, shortly after the fall of the Berlin Wall. It was a powerful symbol of the easing of Cold War tensions between the United States and Soviet Union, which would collapse in 1991.

Now, the company's exit is proving symbolic of a new era, analysts say. Sytch, who lived in Russia when McDonald's entered the market and remembers the excitement surrounding the opening, said the closing signifies a reversal to the Soviet era of isolation.

"It's really painful to see the many years of gains on the democratic front being wiped out with this atrocious war in Ukraine," he said.

Kempczinski left open the possibility that McDonald's could someday return to the Russian market.

"It's impossible to predict what the future may hold, but I choose to end my message with the same spirit that brought McDonald's to Russia in the first place: hope," he wrote in his employee letter. "Thus, let us not end by saying, 'goodbye.' Instead, let us say as they do in Russian: Until we meet again."

McDonald's owns 84% of its restaurants in Russia; the rest are operated by franchisees. Because it won't license its brand, the sale price likely won't be close to the value of the business before the invasion, said Neil Saunders, managing director of GlobalData, a corporate analytics company.

Ransomware gang threatens to overthrow Costa Rica govt

SAN JOSE, Costa Rica (AP)—A ransomware gang that infiltrated some Costa Rican government computer systems has upped its threat, saying its goal is now to overthrow the government.

Perhaps seizing on the fact that President Rodrigo Chaves had only been in office for a week, the Russian-speaking Conti gang tried to increase the pressure to pay a ransom by raising its demand to $20 million.

Chaves suggested Monday in a news conference that the attack was coming from inside as well as outside Costa Rica.

"We are at war and that's not an exaggeration," Chaves said. He said officials were battling a national terrorist group that had collaborators inside Costa Rica.

Chaves also said the impact was broader than previously known, with 27 government institutions, including municipalities and state-run utilities, affected. He blamed his predecessor Carlos Alvarado for not investing in cybersecurity and for not more aggressively dealing with the attacks in the waning days of his government.

In a message Monday, Conti warned that it was working with people inside the government.

"We have our insiders in your government," the group said. "We are also working on gaining access to your other systems, you have no other options but to pay us. We know that you have hired a data recovery specialist, don't try to find workarounds."

Despite Conti's threat, experts see regime change as a highly unlikely — or even the real goal.

"We haven't seen anything even close to this before and it's quite a unique situation," said Brett Callow, a ransomware analyst at Emsisoft. "The threat to overthrow the government is simply them making noise and not to be taken too seriously, I wouldn't say.

Musk hints at paying less for Twitter than his $44B offer

DETROIT (AP)—Tesla CEO Elon Musk gave the strongest hint yet Monday that he would like to pay less for Twitter than his $44 billion offer made last month.

Musk told a Miami technology conference that a viable deal at a lower price would not be out of the question, according to a report by Bloomberg News, which said it viewed a livestream video of the conference posted by a Twitter user.

Also at the All In Summit, Musk estimated that at least 20% of Twitter's 229 million accounts are spam bots, percentage he said was at the low end of his assessment, according to the report.

The appearance came a few hours after Musk began trolling Twitter CEO Paraj Agrawal, who posted a series of tweets explaining his company's effort to fight bots and how it has consistently estimated that less than 5% of Twitter accounts are fake.

In all, the day's events bolstered theories from analysts that Musk either wants out of the deal or is seeking a lower price, largely due to a huge decline in value of Tesla stock, some of which he has pledged to finance the Twitter acquisition.

Twitter shares closed Monday down just over 8% at $37.39, below where the stock was just before Musk disclosed that he was Twitter's largest shareholder. Musk made the offer to buy Twitter for $54.20 per share on April 14.

On Friday Musk tweeted that his plan to buy Twitter was placed on temporary hold as he tried to pinpoint the number of fake accounts on the social media platform. The Tesla and SpaceX CEO said the hold was pending details of Twitter's calculation that fake accounts are less than 5% of its users.

In tweets on Monday, Agrawal acknowledged Twitter isn't perfect at catching spam. He wrote that every quarter, the company has made the estimate of less than 5% spam. "Our estimate is based on multiple human reviews of thousands of accounts that are sampled at random, consistently over time," Agrawal wrote.

Estimates for the last four quarters were all well under 5%, he wrote. "The error margins on our estimates give us confidence in our public statements each quarter."

Musk, using his favorite platform, responded with a smiling emoji of poop, then asked how Twitter's advertisers know what they're getting for their money.

Tesla shares closed Monday down nearly 6% at $724.37. They have lost about one-third of their value since the trading day before Musk disclosed his Twitter stake.

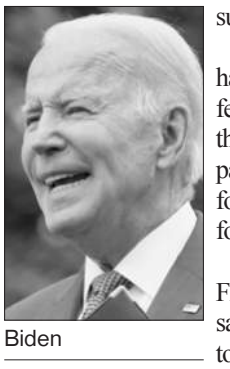
Musk did not immediately return messages seeking comment. The All In Summit said in an email that it would post the video of Musk's appearance in the coming days.

US allows more baby formula imports to fight shortage

WASHINGTON (AP)—Under fire from parents and politicians, President Joe Biden's administration announced steps Monday to ease a nationwide shortage of baby formula, including reopening the largest domestic manufacturing plant and increasing imports from overseas.

The Food and Drug Administration said it was streamlining its review process to make it easier for foreign manufacturers to begin shipping more formula into the U.S.

"The FDA expects that the measures and steps it's taking with infant formula manufacturers and others will mean more and more supply is on the way or on store shelves moving forward," FDA Commissioner Robert Califf told reporters.


Biden

Califf said the U.S. will prioritize companies that can provide the largest shipments and quickly show documentation that their formulas are safe and compatible with U.S. nutrition standards. The policy is structured as a temporary measure lasting six months.

The imports announcement came shortly after regulators said they'd reached a deal to allow Abbott Nutrition to restart its Sturgis, Michigan-based plant, which has been closed since February due to contamination issues. The company must overhaul its safety protocols and procedures before resuming production.

Neither step will have an immediate effect on tight supplies that have left many parents searching for formula online or in food banks.

After getting the FDA's OK, Abbott said it will take eight to ten weeks before new products begin arriving in stores. The company didn't set a timeline to restart manufacturing.

Getting imports into the U.S. supply chain will also take several weeks, according to administration officials. Products from Australia, New Zealand and the U.K. are expected to meet the standards needed for importation.

Nation

Authorities: Hate against Taiwanese led to church attack

LAGUNA WOODS, Calif. (AP)—A Chinese-born gunman motivated by hatred against Taiwan chained shut the doors of a California church and hid firebombs before shooting at a gathering of mostly elderly Taiwanese parishioners, killing a man who tackled him, possibly saving dozens of lives, authorities said Monday.

David Chou, 68, of Las Vegas drove to Orange County on Saturday and the next day attended a lunch held by Irvine Taiwanese Presbyterian Church, which worships at Geneva Presbyterian Church in the community of Laguna Woods. Though he knew no one there, he spent about an hour mingling with about 40 attendees and then executed his plot, authorities said at a news conference.

He chained the doors and put super glue in the keyholes. He had two 9 mm handguns—legally purchased years ago in Las Vegas—and three bags, containing among other things four Molotov-cocktail-type incendiary devices and extra ammunition. He opened fire and in the ensuing chaos Dr. John Cheng, 52, tackled him, allowing other parishioners to subdue him and tie him up with extension cords.

Cheng died and five people were wounded, the oldest 92. Sheriff Don Barnes called Cheng's heroism "a meeting of good versus evil" that probably saved the lives "of upwards of dozens of people."

Chou was booked on suspicion of murder and attempted murder and jailed on $1 million bail. He was expected to appear in state court Tuesday. It was not immediately clear whether he had an attorney who could speak on his behalf. A federal hate crimes investigation is also ongoing.

Chou had worked as a security guard in Las Vegas, authorities said.

There was no immediate word on why Chou chose to target the church in Laguna Woods, a scenic coastal area whose population mainly consists of retirees and is near a large gated community.

AP

Orange County Sheriff's Sgt. Scott Steinle displays a photo of Dr. John Cheng, a 52-year-old victim who was killed in Sunday's shooting at Geneva Presbyterian Church, during a news conference in Santa Ana, Calif., Monday, May 16, 2022.

Barnes said the motive of the shooting was a grievance between the shooter, who he said was born in China and is a U.S. citizen, and the Taiwanese community.

Barnes said Chou acted alone and was not a regular attendee of the church..

"He is not believed to be associated with any specific church or any religion, and there's no direct connection to the church or any member of the church that we're aware of," Barnes said.

A former neighbor said Chou's life unraveled after his wife left him. Chou had been a pleasant man who used to own the Las Vegas apartment building where he lived until February, Balmore Orellana told The Associated Press. Records showed the four-unit property was sold last October for a little more than $500,000.

Orellana said Chou's wife used the money from the sale to move to Taiwan.

Before Orellana moved in about five years ago, Chou received a head injury and other serious injuries in an attack by a tenant, the neighbor said. More recently his mental health declined and last summer a gun was fired inside Chou's apartment and the bullet entered Orellana's apartment, although nobody was hurt, Orellana said.

Police reports about the assault and the shooting were not immediately available Monday.

Chou's family apparently was among many forcibly removed from China to Taiwan sometime after 1948, Orange County District Attorney Todd Spitzer said. Chou's hatred toward the island, documented in handwritten notes that authorities found, seems like it began when he felt he wasn't treated well while living there.

Big cross-border tunnel found linking Tijuana, San Diego

AP

This undated photo provided by Homeland Security Investigations shows the inside of a cross border tunnel between Mexico's Tijuana into the San Diego area.

SAN DIEGO (AP)—U.S. authorities on Monday announced the discovery of a major drug smuggling tunnel—running about the length of a six football fields—from Mexico to a warehouse in an industrial area in the U.S.

The secret passage from Tijuana to San Diego featured rail and ventilation systems, electricity and reinforced walls, authorities said. It was discovered near San Diego's Otay Mesa border crossing in an area where more than a dozen other sophisticated tunnels have been found in the last two decades.

U.S. authorities said it was unknown how long the tunnel had been operating and what amount of drugs, if any, got through undetected. They seized 1,762 pounds (799 kg) of cocaine, 165 pounds (75 kg) of meth and 3.5 pounds (1.6 kg) of heroin in connection with the investigation.

Six people, ages 31 to 55, were charged with conspiring to distribute cocaine. All are Southern California residents.

The tunnel is in one of the most fortified stretches of the border, illustrating the limitations of border walls. While considered effective against small, crudely built tunnels called "gopher holes," walls are no match for more sophisticated passages that run deeper underground.

Online diary: Buffalo gunman plotted attack for months

BUFFALO, N.Y. (AP)—The white gunman accused of massacring 10 Black people at a Buffalo supermarket wrote as far back as November about staging a livestreamed attack on African Americans, practiced shooting from his car and traveled hours from his home in March to scout out the store, according to detailed diary entries he appears to have posted online.

The author of the diary posted hand-drawn maps of the grocery store along with tallies of the number of Black people he counted there, and recounted how a Black security guard at the supermarket confronted him that day to ask what he was up to. A Black security guard was among the dead in Saturday's shooting rampage.

The diary taken from the chat platform Discord came to light two days after 18-year-old Payton Gendron allegedly opened fire with an AR-15-style rifle at the Tops Friendly Market. He was wearing body armor and used a helmet camera to livestream the bloodbath on the internet, authorities said.

He surrendered inside the supermarket and was arraigned on a murder charge over the weekend. He pleaded not guilty and was jailed under a suicide watch. Federal authorities are contemplating bringing hate crime charges.

Copies of the online materials were shared with The Associated Press by Marc-André Argentino, a research fellow at the London-based International Centre for the Study of Radicalisation and Political Violence.

A transcript of the diary entries was apparently posted publicly sometime ahead of the attack. It was not clear how many people might have seen the entries. Experts said it was possible but unlikely the diary could have been altered by someone other than the author.

The FBI's top agent in Buffalo, Stephen Belongia, indicated on a call with other officials Monday that investigators are looking at Gendron's Discord activity, citing posts last summer about body armor and guns and others last month in which he taunted federal authorities. Belongia gave no details in the call, a recording of which the AP obtained.

But in an April 17 post apparently by Gendron, he exhorted readers to kill agents from the FBI and Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

Messages seeking comment were left with Gendron's lawyers. No one answered the door at his family's home.

The violence spread grief and anger in Buffalo and beyond.

Former Buffalo Fire Commissioner Garnell Whitfield Jr., who lost his 86-year-old mother, Ruth Whitfield, in the shooting, asked how the country could allow its history of racist killings to repeat itself.

ACROSS THE NATION

Rain brings relief to massive, record-wildfire in New Mexico

Lightning sparked a few new small fires in the drought-stricken Southwest Monday but the thunderstorms brought welcome rain to the monster blaze that's been churning for a month in New Mexico and is now the state's largest in recorded history. "We haven't seen rain in a really long time so that's exciting," San Miguel County Sheriff Chris Lopez said Monday might at a briefing on the biggest active fire in the U.S. burning east of Santa Fe. "It gave us a little bit of a breather," he said at one of the command posts in Las Vegas, New Mexico, on the southeast flank of the blaze that's charred 465 square miles (1,204 square kilometers). More than 2,000 fire personnel remain on the lines in the Sangre de Cristo mountain range south of Taos. The fire now covers an area nearly one-quarter the size of Delaware.

Press secretary hopes her rise helps kids 'dream bigger'

WASHINGTON (AP)—Karine Jean-Pierre, the new White House press secretary, hopes she can inspire young people to "dream big and dream bigger" now that she has broken a barrier by becoming the first Black and gay woman to be chief spokesperson for the president of the United States. Jean-Pierre reflected Monday on what it means to become one of the most visible members of President Joe Biden's administration as she spoke about a letter that students at her former elementary school in New York wrote telling her how proud they are of her. "Representation matters, and not just for girls, but also for boys," Jean-Pierre told reporters during the first of what likely will be hundreds of daily press briefings she will hold. "And so what I hope is that young people get to dream big and dream bigger than they have before by seeing me stand here and answer all of your questions," she said.

Migrant border entries rise in April, boosted by Ukrainians

WASHINGTON (AP)—U.S. authorities said Monday that they stopped migrants more than 234,000 times in April, one of the highest marks in decades as the Biden administration prepares to lift pandemic-era restrictions on claiming asylum. U.S. Customs and Border Protection officials made 234,088 stops on the Mexican border last month, a 5.8% increase from 221,303 in March, according to a Justice Department filing in a lawsuit filed by Texas and Missouri. The April total would have been lower without more than 23,000 people—many of them Ukrainian refugees admitted on humanitarian parole—who went through a San Diego border crossing. The number of Ukrainians has dropped sharply since April 25, when the administration began directing those fleeing Russia's invasion to U.S. airports from Europe, instead of through Mexico.

Execution for Georgia man who killed girl temporarily stayed

ATLANTA (AP)—A judge on Monday temporarily delayed the execution of a Georgia man who was scheduled to die Tuesday for killing an 8-year-old girl 46 years ago. Virgil Delano Presnell Jr., 68, killed the girl and raped her 10-year-old friend after abducting them as they walked home from school in Cobb County, just outside Atlanta, on May 4, 1976. He was scheduled to die by injection of the sedative pentobarbital at the state prison in Jackson at 7 p.m. Tuesday. Ruling from the bench at the end of a hearing that lasted more than eight hours Monday, Fulton County Superior Court Judge Shermela Williams issued an order temporarily prohibiting the state from proceeding with the execution Tuesday. She was ruling in a lawsuit filed on behalf of Presnell's lawyers that alleged that by setting an execution date the state violated an agreement that effectively put executions on hold during the coronavirus pandemic and established conditions under which they could resume.

Asia

N. Korea's Kim in a dilemma on aid as COVID virus surges

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—During more than a decade as North Korea's leader, Kim Jong Un has made "self-reliance" his governing lynchpin, shunning international help and striving instead for domestic strategies to fix his battered economy.

But as an illness suspected to be COVID-19 sickens hundreds of thousands of his people, Kim stands at a critical crossroad: Either swallow his pride and receive foreign help to fight the disease, or go it alone, enduring potential huge fatalities that may undermine his leadership.

"Kim Jong Un is in a dilemma, a really huge dilemma," said Lim Eul-chul, a professor at Kyungnam University's Institute for Far Eastern Studies in Seoul. "If he accepts U.S. or Western assistance, that can shake the self-reliance stance that he has steadfastly maintained and public confidence in him could be weakened."

Doing nothing, however, could be calamitous.

Since acknowledging a COVID-19 outbreak last week, North Korea has said "an explosively spreading fever" has killed 56 people and sickened about 1.5 million others. Outside observers suspect most of those cases were caused by the coronavirus.

Whatever North Korea's state-controlled media says about those who are sick, the outbreak is likely several times worse. North Korea lacks sufficient COVID-19 tests, and experts say it is significantly understating deaths to avoid possible public unrest that could hurt Kim politically.

Some observers say the stated death toll is low for a country where most of the 26 million people are unvaccinated and medicine is in short supply.

The North's apparent underreporting of deaths is meant to defend Kim's authority as he faces "the first and biggest crisis" of his decade of rule, Nam Sung-wook, a professor at Korea University, said.

The North Korean outbreak may be linked to a massive military parade in Pyongyang in late April that Kim organized to feature new weapons and loyal troops. The parade drew tens of thousands of soldiers and residents from around the country. After the event, Kim spent several days taking dozens of commemorative group photos with parade participants, all of whom were without masks. Most of the photos involved dozens or hundreds of people.

North Korea may be able to publicly hide the real number of deaths, but the country's strengthened restrictions on movement and quarantine rules could hurt its agricultural cultivation. Its economy is already battered by more than two years of pandemic-caused border shutdowns and other curbs.

North Korea is also worried about a shortage of medical supplies and food and daily necessities that have dried up in markets during the border closures, Yang Moo-jin, a professor at Seoul's University of North Korean Studies, said.

"They are experiencing another 'arduous march,'" Yang said, referring to the state's euphemism for a devastating famine in the 1990s that killed hundreds of thousands of people.

Rains trigger floods in India, killing 8

AP

People inspect the area of a landslide after heavy rainfall in Dima Hasao district, in the northeastern Indian state of Assam, Monday, May 16, 2022.

GAUHATI, India (AP)—At least eight people have died in floods and mudslides triggered by heavy rains in India's remote northeast region, officials said Tuesday.

Several railway stations were not working because of floods, said Nazreen Ahmed, a senior administrative official in Assam's Dima Hasao district. He said that nearly 200,000 people in the district were cut from the rest of the state, as roads and bridges leading to it were either blocked by landslides or washed away.

The army deployed helicopters to help with rescue efforts.

Officials said four people were killed on Monday following heavy rains and mudslides in the region's frontier state of Arunachal Pradesh. Two others died when their houses on a small hillock caved in in the state's capital Itanagar, and two road construction workers were killed due to mudslides at another location.

Four other people were reported killed in the neighboring Assam state.

The Indian Meteorological Department forecast very heavy to extremely heavy rain in the region for the next four days.

Landslides and floods are common in India's Himalayan north. Scientists say they are becoming more frequent as global warming contributes to the melting of glaciers there.

In 2020, flash floods killed nearly 200 people and washed away houses in Uttarakhand state. In 2013, thousands of people were killed in floods there.

World

Ukraine mounts effort to rescue steel mill fighters

KYIV, Ukraine (AP)—Efforts were underway Tuesday to rescue the last of the defenders inside the Azovstal steel plant in the ruined city of Mariupol after Ukrainian officials said the fighters had "completed their mission" and there was no way to free the plant by military means.

The Ukrainian military avoided using the term "surrender" to describe the effort to pull out of the steel plant to save as many lives as possible. Officials planned to keep trying to save an unknown number of fighters who stayed behind. It was unclear if soldiers evacuated to Russian-controlled areas would be considered prisoners of war.

Ukraine's deputy defense minister said more than 260 fighters, including some badly wounded, were evacuated from the plant Monday and taken to areas under Russia's control.

"The work to bring the guys home continues, and it requires delicacy and time," said Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

He said the evacuation to separatist-controlled territory was done to save the fighters who endured weeks of Russian assaults in the maze of underground passages below the plant.

"Ukraine needs Ukrainian heroes to be alive. It's our principle," he said.

Russian forces were pounding targets in the industrial heartland of eastern Ukraine known as the Donbas, and the death toll kept climbing with the war set to enter its 12th week.

Ukraine made a symbolic gain when its forces reportedly pushed Russian troops back to the Russian border in the Kharkiv region. Video showed Ukrainian soldiers carrying a post that resembled a Ukrainian blue-and-yellow-striped border marker and then posing next to it.

The Ukrainian border service said the video showing the soldiers was from the border "in the Kharkiv region," but would not elaborate, citing security reasons. It was not immediately possible to verify the exact location.

Zelenskyy thanked the soldiers, saying in a video message: "I'm very grateful to all the fighters like you."

Ukraine Deputy Defense Minister Hanna Maliar said 53 seriously wounded fighters were taken from the Azovstal plant to a hospital in Novoazovsk, east of Mariupol. Another 211 fighters were evacuated to Olenivka through a humanitarian corridor. She said an exchange would be worked out for their return home.

Before the evacuations began, the Russian Defense Ministry announced an agreement for the wounded to leave the mill for treatment in a town held by pro-Moscow separatists.

After nightfall Monday, several buses pulled away from the steel mill accompanied by Russian military vehicles. Maliar confirmed the evacuation had taken place.

She said the "defenders of Mariupol" had fulfilled all their tasks, and it was impossible to "unblock Azovstal by military means."

"Mariupol's defenders have fully accomplished all missions assigned by the command," Maliar said.

The commander of the Azov Regiment, which led the defense of the plant, said in a prerecorded video message released Monday that the regiment's mission had ended with as many lives saved as possible.

"Absolutely safe plans and operations don't exist during war," Lt. Col. Denis Prokopenko said.

Elsewhere in the Donbas, the eastern city of Sievierdonetsk came under heavy shelling that killed at least 10 people, said Serhiy Haidai, the governor of the Luhansk region. In the Donetsk region, Gov. Pavlo Kyrylenko said on Facebook that nine civilians were killed in shelling.

WORLD BRIEFS

Coast Guard ends search after rescuing 38 near Puerto Rico

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)—The U.S. Coast Guard announced Monday that it suspended the search for potential survivors of a capsized boat near Puerto Rico after finding 11 bodies and rescuing 38 migrants from a vessel that had carried an estimated 60 to 75 passengers. Crews searched the waters north of uninhabited Desecheo Island, which lies west of Puerto Rico, for four days. All 11 victims were Haitian women and 36 of the 38 survivors were Haitians. The remaining two were from the Dominican Republic, officials said. "Our most heartfelt condolences to the families, friends and loved ones of those who did not survive or remain missing," said Capt. Gregory Magee, commander of the San Juan Coast Guard sector. "These crews have done their utmost to ensure that if there were any more survivors, that they would have had the best chance to be rescued."

Passenger, cargo trains collide in Spain; 1 killed, 85 hurt

MADRID (AP)—A cargo train smashed into a rush-hour passenger train in Catalonia on Monday, killing an engineer and injuring 85 people, Spanish authorities and the regional rail company said. Emergency crews said they were helping to evacuate about 100 people on the passenger train. The accident happened around 6 p.m. (1600 GMT) some 15 kilometers (10 miles) from Barcelona, the capital of the northeastern region, rail company FGC said in a statement. The cargo train carrying potash derailed as it came into the Sant Boi station in northeastern Spain. It then smashed into the front of the passenger train, which was pulling out of the station, killing the engineer, the FGC said.

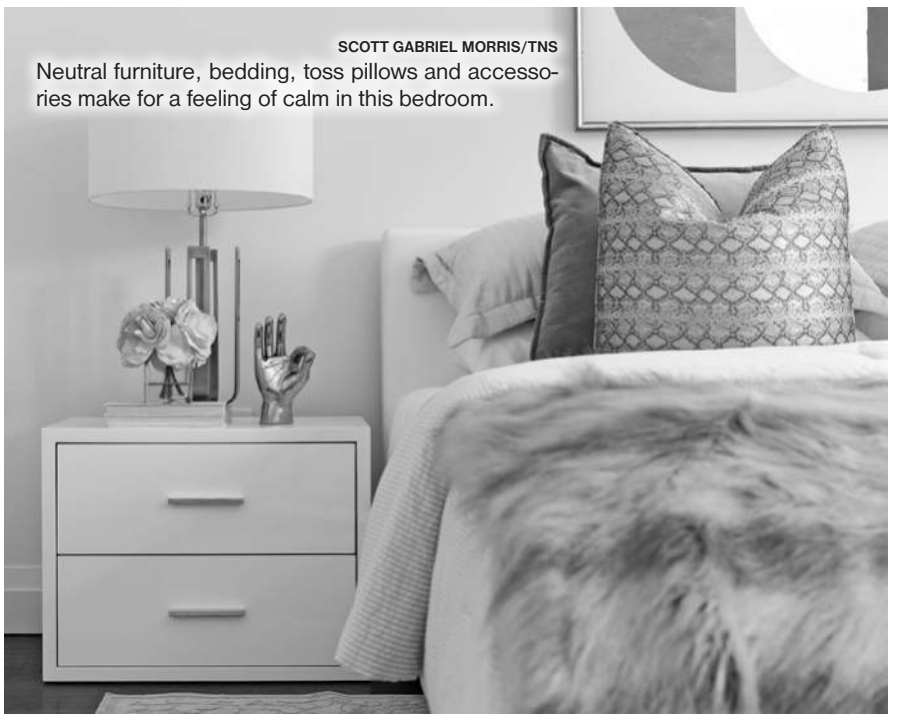
Schools, offices close in Tehran as sandstorm hits Iran

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—Schools and government offices closed in the Iranian capital on Tuesday and elsewhere in the country after yet another sandstorm blanketed Tehran, state TV reported. The report said the air quality was very poor and that the pollution from the dust was high. It was the third severe sandstorm in Iran since mid-April. Last week, authorities also shuttered schools in Tehran and other provinces because of a similar sandstorm but Tuesday marks the first time government offices closed in Tehran due to a sandstorm.

Good Housekeeping

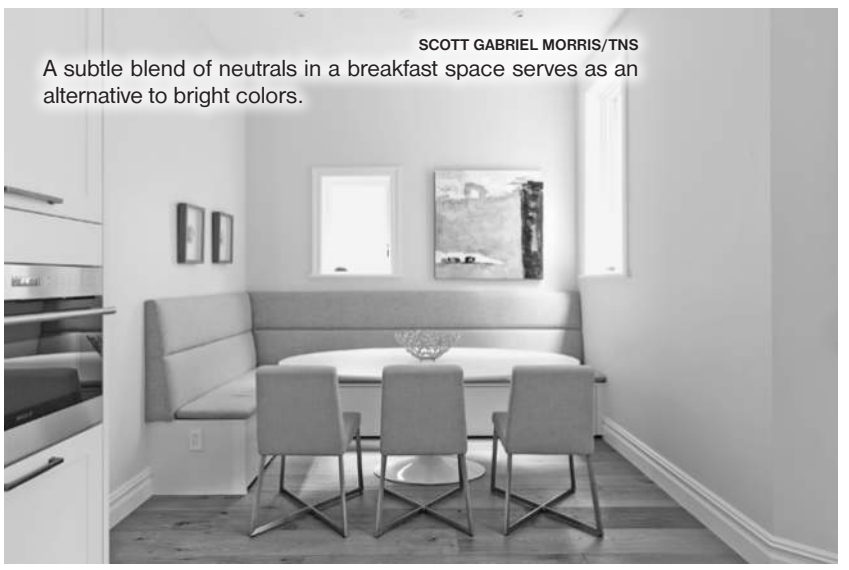
SCOTT GABRIEL MORRIS/TNS

Various shades of taupe, brown and gold help create a neutral yet cozy atmosphere.



SCOTT GABRIEL MORRIS/TNS

Neutral furniture, bedding, toss pillows and accessories make for a feeling of calm in this bedroom.



SCOTT GABRIEL MORRIS/TNS

A subtle blend of neutrals in a breakfast space serves as an alternative to bright colors.

HANDOUT/TNS

Black is used as an accent against predominantly neutral tones in this living space.

ALL ABOUT NEUTRALS

BY CATHY HOBBS
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Want to create a timeless color story, but don't know where to start? A neutral color palette will not only create a foundation from which you can build any color palette, but it's timeless as well. Neutral colors come in all shapes and sizes from tints, tones and shades of white to grays, browns and even black. Pairing certain neutrals together can provide the perfect blend for those looking for a calm, soothing environment.

Here are some top tips.

1. Look to incorporate large pieces that are solid as opposed to patterned. This provides for the most amount of versatility.
2. Infuse gray and cool tones in spaces that have an abundance of light and you desire to cool down.
3. Blend soft neutrals together such as tan, gray and muted pastels.
4. Incorporate tans and brown tones in spaces you wish to feel warm and cozy.
5. Use neutrals as a springboard to either a predominately neutral color palette or one in which you wish to infuse pops of color.
6. Blend metallics and florals into your neutral color palette.
7. Use rugs and artwork as an opportunity to bring in neutrals on a large scale.
8. Consider tactile materials as a way of softening a space.
9. Create a sense of contrast by pairing light neutrals such as taupe and gray with dark neutrals such as brown and black.
10. Consider pastels and pastel tones as a way to blend soft color into a neutral color palette.

SCOTT GABRIEL MORRIS/TNS

Tints, tones and shades of white makes for a soothing and neutral color scheme.

Life & Style

Jury sees pics of Heard's swollen face after fight with Depp

FALLS CHURCH, Va. (AP)—Jurors in Johnny Depp's libel trial against his ex-wife, Amber Heard, saw photos Monday of her with red marks and swelling on her face after their final fight before their divorce, and heard testimony about her expertise in covering up bruises with makeup.

Heard concluded her direct testimony in a Virginia courtroom with a third day that was centered on the final months of her marriage to Depp. His lawyers began their cross-examination later in the afternoon.

The trial is now in its fifth week, and jurors have seen multiple photos of Heard throughout the trial that purport to document the abuse she said she received during her relationship with Depp.

Several of the photos shown Monday, though, had not previously been seen by the jury and showed redness and swelling much more clearly than earlier photos.

Heard said the marks came when Depp threw a phone at her face.

The confrontation in May 2016 prompted Heard to file for divorce two days later. A few days after that, she obtained a temporary restraining order after a courthouse hearing, and was widely photographed leaving the courthouse with a clear red mark on her right cheek.

The final fight has been a key point in the couple's ongoing dispute. Depp is suing Heard in Fairfax County Circuit Court for libel over a December 2018 op-ed she wrote in The Washington Post describing herself as "a public figure representing domestic abuse." His lawyers say he was defamed by the article even though it never mentioned his name.

Depp says he never struck Heard and that she's concocting claims she was abused. Earlier in the trial, jurors heard from police officers who responded to emergency calls during that final fight who said Heard's face looked red from crying but that they saw no visible bruises. Witnesses also testified that they didn't see bruises on Heard's face in the immediate days after the fight.

Heard, in her testimony Monday, said she didn't cooperate with officers who responded to the couple's penthouse, and said her face-to-face interactions with officers were very limited.

She also discussed her makeup routine, using a color correction wheel that she called her "bruise kit" to cover up marks on her face. She said she learned over the years to use green shades in the first day of a bruise to cover up redness, and switch more to orange shades as the bruise turned blue and purple.

Step-by-step: Disney rhino gets fitted with fitness tracker

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—Someone new is joining the ranks of fitness enthusiasts who monitor the number of steps they take each day with Fitbits and other fitness tracking devices. Only Helen isn't human: She's a 30-year-old white rhino at Walt Disney World.

Helen went out onto the savanna at the Kilimanjaro Safaris attraction at Animal Kingdom on Monday wearing a fitness device all-day.

The purpose is to gather data on the number of steps she takes each day, whether she is walking, running or napping, and which part of the man-made savanna she favors the most. The device, about a foot (0.3 meters) in diameter, has an accelerometer and a GPS tracker and it's fitted around her ankle.

The data it produces will be shared with more than two dozen other institutions participating in a large research project studying the best ways to care for rhinos at facilities, said Scott Terrell, a veterinarian who is director of Animal & Science Operations, Walt Disney Parks & Resorts.

AP

Helen, a 30-year-old white rhino, wears a fitness device on her right front leg as she grazes at Walt Disney World's Animal Kingdom theme park, Monday, May 16, 2022, in Lake Buena Vista, Fla.

"By doing this research and using this technology, we can really focus in on the physical fitness of the rhinos as a component of their health and well being," Terrell said.

The tracker consists of a belt with a small pouch with electronics attached to it. Her caretakers had been trying to get Helen accustomed to the device by having her wear it for a limited amount of time and then extending that time.

If Helen continues to appear comfortable wearing the device, which will be taken off at night, eventually two-thirds of the nine white rhinos at Animal Kingdom will be wearing the devices out on the savanna.

Around 27,000 rhinos remain in the wild, primarily at national parks and reserves. Three species — black, Javan, and Sumatran — are critically endangered due to poaching, according to the World Wildlife Fund.

Singer Ruslana seeks Turkey's help for Ukrainian fighters

ISTANBUL (AP)—A Ukrainian singer and former Eurovision song contest winner appealed to Turkey's president on Monday to save Ukrainian fighters from the besieged city of Mariupol amid Russia's war.

Ruslana, whose song "Wild Dances" catapulted her to No. 1 in the music contest in 2004, spoke at a news conference in Istanbul. She was flanked by the mothers and wives of the "Mariupol defenders" — Ukrainian fighters who are defending the city's steel mill.

"Stand with Ukraine. Unite for Ukraine. Help Mariupol. Help Azovstal. Help our brave Ukrainian soldiers," she said. "I truly believe that today Turkey's leader President Erdogan, who has an international role and presence, will help our citizens in need."

Several hundred Ukrainian fighters are estimated to be holed up at the sprawling Azovstal steelworks plant, the last pocket of resistance in a city largely reduced to rubble over the past two months.

Ruslana's comments came as Europe pushed to toughen its response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine, with Sweden joining Finland in deciding to seek NATO membership and European Union officials working to rescue proposed sanctions against Russian oil.

Get on your bike: Coldplay hopes to lead with a green tour

NEW YORK (AP)—It's often said that fans at live concerts give the band a jolt of electricity. Coldplay wants to literally harness that.

The pop superstars have added kinetic dance floors and energy-storing stationary bikes to their latest world tour, encouraging fans to help power the show as they dance or spin.

It's part of a larger push to make the tour more environmentally friendly. The band — whose songs include the appropriately titled "Higher Power" — has pledged to be as sustainable and low-carbon as possible, hoping to cut their CO2 emissions by 50%.

"You don't want to come across as being overly earnest. This stuff is really good fun as well," said bassist Guy Berryman. "That's the way it will bed in, if people see it less as a sort of onerous responsibility and more as a kind of opportunity to do something fun and it's a benefit to the environment and to the whole concert experience."

Each kinetic dance floor can hold dozens of people, with electricity created when movement is made on them. The band has pre-show contests to see which group of fans can generate the most power, fueled by "Jump Around" by House of Pain.

Delicious dessert tastes best shared with company

DEAR ABBY: I lost your cookbooklet collection! My family and I have really enjoyed some of those recipes. I have loved all the ones I have tried, but my favorites are the desserts. Particularly noteworthy is your Peanut Butter Pie. It is yummy! Please let me know how I can order the booklets again. I need

SWEET TOOTH IN PHOENIX

DEAR SWEET TOOTH: You and I have something in common -- our affinity for desserts. I have made the Peanut Butter Pie for guests many times, and it has been well received. The last time I prepared it, I thought I'd try to "de-calorie" it. I drained some nonfat yogurt in cheesecloth until it thickened and substituted it for the cream cheese. It worked beautifully. My guests couldn't tell the difference. For readers who might like to try it, here's the original recipe:

HEAVENLY PEANUT BUTTER PIE
CRUST:
2 cups graham cracker crumbs
1/4 cup butter (1/2 cube), melted
2 oz. semi-sweet chocolate, grated
FILLING: 1 cup crunchy peanut butter
1 pkg. (8 oz.) cream cheese, softened
2 teaspoons butter, softened
1 cup sugar
1 teaspoon vanilla
1/2 cup miniature chocolate chips
1/2 cup salted peanuts (optional)
1 pkg. (8 oz.) frozen whipped topping, thawed

In medium bowl, combine cracker crumbs, butter and chocolate; mix well. Reserve 1/4 cup crumb mixture to use as garnish. Press remaining crumb mixture onto bottom and sides of 9-inch pie plate. Chill.

In large bowl, beat together peanut butter, cream cheese and butter. Add sugar and vanilla. Blend well.

Stir in chocolate chips and peanuts. Fold in whipped topping. Pour into chilled crust and garnish with reserved crumb mixture. Chill overnight.

Serves: 8 DISCIPLINED people.

My cookbooklet set contains more than 100 tasty recipes for soups, salads, appetizers, main courses and, of course, desserts for special occasions. Order by sending your name and address, plus check or money order for $16 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mt. Morris, IL 61054. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

I'm proud to say that some of the recipes included have won blue ribbons in country fairs, while others were featured on the cover of women's magazines. But whether your entertaining is formal or casual, remember it's who you put in the chairs in ADDITION to the food that makes a great party.

■■■■

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

DEAR ABBY: My daughter's boyfriend recently stayed at our home for eight days. He's 50; we are in our 60s. He regarded "help yourself" to mean it was OK to drink our liquor from early afternoon to bedtime. How can we have some control over this situation without causing a scene?

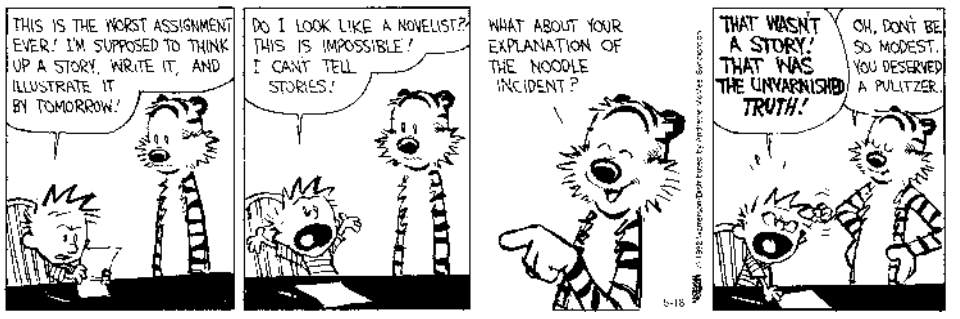
BAR'S CLOSED IN NORTH CAROLINA

DEAR BAR'S CLOSED: Put a lock on the cabinet where you stow your liquor, or move it out of the house entirely when you know he's planning a return visit. And while you're at it, have a serious conversation with your daughter about her boyfriend's insatiable appetite for alcohol, because it could have a negative impact on her future.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


THIS IS THE WORST ASSIGNMENT EVER! I'M SUPPOSED TO THINK UP A STORY, WRITE IT, AND ILLUSTRATE IT BY TOMORROW!
DO I LOOK LIKE A NOVELIST? THIS IS IMPOSSIBLE! I CAN'T TELL STORIES!
WHAT ABOUT YOUR EXPLANATION OF THE NOODLE INCIDENT?
THAT WASN'T A STORY! THAT WAS THE UNVARNISHED TRUTH!
OH, DON'T BE SO MODEST. YOU DESERVED A PULITZER.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

SON, YOU CAN'T BE A PICKPOCKET.
HOW ABOUT JUST AS A HOBBY?
I LOOKED UP SOME TIPS ON THE INTERNET! I'M GOOD AT IT!
I DON'T CARE. IT'S WRONG TO...
WAIT. IS THAT MY JACKET?
IT'S A GIFT, DAD! YOU DIDN'T EVEN FEEL THAT!

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

What do you want to do today, Mitzi?
We could see that new movie
It's supposed to be the "Feel-good" Film of the year.
After blowing thirty bucks on popcorn and a movie, I'm not sure I'd be capable of feeling good.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Sailor
4 "Kapow!"
7 "— arigato"
8 Student
10 Bit of mischief
11 Comes up
13 Culminating in a big letdown
16 — Alamos
17 Province of China
18 British ref. work
19 Puts on
20 Samples of wordplay
21 Country music's Tucker
23 Water filter brand
25 Prolonged sleep
26 Cravats
27 Tofu source
28 Gave a darn
30 Govt. lender
33 Relating to outer space
36 Caramelly Girl Scout cookies
37 Countrified
38 Final inning, normally
39 New corp. hires
40 Casual shirt
41 Evergreen tree

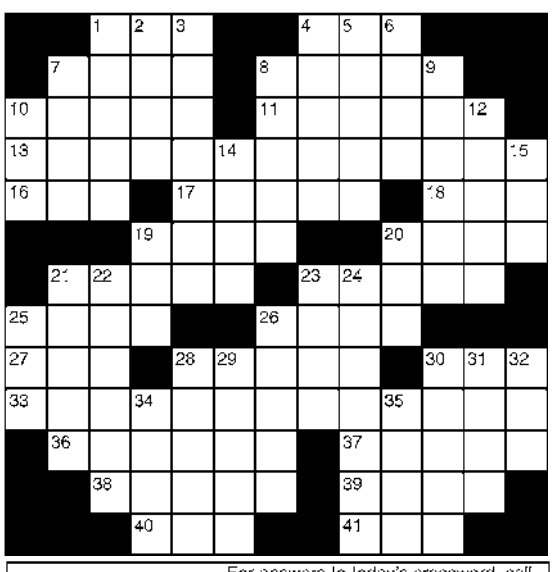
DOWN

1 Capricorns
2 Hotel chain
3 Chinese cabbage
4 Myanmar, once
5 Bee-like
6 Catchall abbr.
7 Bond foe
8 Partner of aches
9 Dismiss, as class
10 Chum
12 Tuscan city
14 Moth variety
15 LPs' successors
19 DNA evidence
20 Math ratios
21 Animated figures
22 "The Joy Luck Club" author
23 Actress Jessica
24 Soviet fighting force
25 Hit CBS series
26 Garbage
28 Witch
29 Marble type
30 Scarecrow stuffing
31 Prejudice
32 Oft-torn knee part, for short
34 Send forth
35 Rubik's baffler

Solution time: 23 mins.

S	I	O	P	■	R	F	P	■	K	F	F	I
P	O	L	O	■	O	V	A	■	A	L	T	O
A	D	I	N	■	M	I	N	A	R	E	T	S
M	I	N	I	M	A	L	■	N	A	V	E	S
■	■	■	F	O	N	■	J	O	T	■	■	■
F	A	R	S	:	■	M	I	N	E	R	V	A
U	L	M	■	■	F	O	G	■	■	:	I	I
M	I	N	G	L	E	D	■	C	A	P	E	H
■	■	■	A	:	D	■	B	A	M	■	■	■
S	W	O	R	E	■	M	I	N	U	T	I	A
M	I	N	I	S	T	E	R	■	S	E	N	T
U	S	E	S	■	A	R	C	■	E	R	G	O
T	E	S	H	■	M	E	H	■	D	:	A	Z

Yesterday's answer 5-18



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Hala Finley, 13; Tina Fey, 52; George Strait, 70; Reggie Jackson, 76.

Happy Birthday: Budget wisely and keep your possessions and assets protected. Avoid joint ventures and giving others too much personal information. Concentrate on taking care of business and using common sense to help you get what you want. Consistency and moderation will play in your favor and ward off anyone who tries to get in your way. Make yourself clear to avoid mistakes. Your numbers are 6, 13, 25, 28, 31, 34, 47.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Keep your feelings to yourself. A problem will surface if you are overindulgent. Gauge your time and use your tools, skills and experience to help you reach your destination. An event, trip or educational pursuit will procure good results. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Take care of details personally. If you let someone meddle in your affairs, you'll be disappointed in the outcome. A pick-me-up will help you put things in perspective and make decisions that will assist you. How you handle responsibilities will be noted. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Someone will take advantage of you if you aren't careful. Know when to say no and back away from anyone who uses emotional tactics to coax you into something questionable or time-consuming. Put your responsibilities first to ease stress. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Use your courage and stamina advantageously. Learn as you go, and make a splash that others remember. An innovative approach to your responsibilities will positively change if you don't go overboard physically or financially. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Overreacting will invite opposition. Don't choose or change for the wrong reason. A stubborn attitude will cause grief. The best way to get things done is to do them yourself or offer kindness and incentives. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Keep life simple and stay within budget. You have plenty to gain if you adjust to the world around you and make the most of what you have. Don't give in to pressure or emotional manipulation. Say no to outlandish requests. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Be careful what you wish for when dealing with domestic matters. Disagreements will leave you unsettled. Do your best to resolve issues quickly and to practice kindness and consideration. An intelligent approach to helping others is favored. Choose positivity over negativity. ✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* You'll come up with good ideas, and your resourcefulness will lead to the winner's circle. Bask in the glory and enjoy the moment. Sharing your joy and good fortune with others will encourage a solid and united front. Change begins with you. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Practicality will win out, so don't take a risk or believe everything you hear. Keep an eye on someone who tends to exaggerate. Do your due diligence and break down the emotional, physical and financial costs before accepting a proposal. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* A simple, modest attitude will carry you further than a risky venture. Look at the logistics of anyone's offer or situation before making a move. Put more time and effort into your home and family and what will encourage togetherness. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Trust the facts, not what someone wants you to believe. Emphasize your health and physical well-being. Healthy eating and a fitness routine will build confidence and the courage to stand your ground and pursue your dreams. Romance is favored. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Stick to the truth and avoid being scrutinized. Don't get involved in someone's plan or in activities that can lead to overindulgence or wrongdoing. Choose your words wisely to avoid problems with institutions or government agencies. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are intriguing, secretive and possessive. You are sensitive and demanding.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	8	6				5	2	
7			9		4			1
1			8		2			4
5			1		7			6
	1	9	5			4	3	7
			4					2
			6					3
3			2		9			8
	4	7				2	6	

Difficulty Level ★★★ 5/18

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

3	5	8	7	6	2	1	4	9
4	1	6	9	3	8	5	7	2
7	9	2	4	5	1	3	8	6
5	8	4	3	9	7	6	2	1
1	6	3	2	4	5	8	9	7
2	7	9	1	8	6	4	5	3
6	4	1	5	7	9	2	3	8
9	2	5	8	1	3	7	6	4
8	3	7	6	2	4	9	1	5

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

A BIT OF MALARKEY Solution: 6 letters

I	H	B	A	L	D	E	R	D	A	S	H	A	L	B
B	N	S	F	O	L	D	E	R	O	L	K	C	U	M
E	A	S	A	F	H	N	O	N	S	E	N	S	E	O
C	R	L	I	W	H	S	O	B	N	K	U	E	B	O
U	E	R	O	N	G	K	I	A	A	O	J	L	F	N
A	T	B	U	N	C	O	M	B	E	J	A	D	M	S
Ⓢ	Ⓣ	Ⓤ	Ⓝ	O	E	E	H	B	B	T	U	D	U	H
E	A	R	R	T	H	Y	R	L	H	U	D	A	M	I
L	H	C	I	S	S	E	L	E	S	U	R	W	B	N
P	C	U	A	V	O	K	R	A	E	D	I	T	O	E
P	H	R	M	O	I	L	A	U	G	H	V	I	B	L
A	T	O	D	B	G	A	R	B	A	G	E	I	M	F
D	R	O	O	L	U	T	L	H	S	U	L	S	U	F
T	O	S	H	E	L	G	F	U	D	G	E	E	J	I
H	T	O	M	M	Y	R	O	T	E	P	I	R	T	P

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Applesauce, Babble, Balderdash, Baloney, Beans, Bilge, Blah, Blather, Bosh, Buncombe, Chatter, Crock, Drivel, Drool, Folderol, Fudge, Garbage, Hogwash, Hoodoo, Humbug, Idea, Insincere, Joke, Jumbo, Junk, Laugh, Moonshine, Muck, Mumbo, Nonsense, Nuts, Phooey, Piffle, Rubbish, Slush, Talk, Tommyrot, Tosh, Trash, Trifle, Tripe, Trivial, Twaddle, Useless

Yesterday's Answer: Anything for Love

Treasury 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20 or 21 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com. (Contain 130 puzzles.)

Yankees beat Orioles 6-2 to extend AL East lead to 5 1/2

BALTIMORE (AP)—Jose Trevino gave the New York Yankees one of the few things they've been lacking lately — some power from the catcher position.

Trevino became the first New York catcher with a home run this year when he hit a three-run drive in the fourth to lift the surging Yankees over the Baltimore Orioles 6-2 Monday night.

Luis Severino allowed one hit in six innings for New York.

The Yankees traded power-hitting catcher Gary Sánchez to Minnesota in the offseason, and both Trevino and Kyle Higashioka have improved the defense but are slugging under .300. Trevino had a couple hits Monday, though, including his big home run.

"That was awesome. It was a big spot for us right there," teammate Josh Donaldson said. "He's been having some good at-bats. Obviously, he does a great job behind the plate and he did that again today."

Donaldson — who came over in the trade for Sánchez — and Anthony Rizzo added back-to-back solo homers in the ninth for the Yankees, who won for the 19th time in 22 games. New York (26-9) is off to one of the best 35-game starts in franchise history. Only the 1939 and 1928 teams, at 28-7, were better at this point.

Anthony Santander homered twice for Baltimore's only runs, but the Orioles managed only one other hit in the game.

Kyle Bradish (1-2) allowed four runs and eight hits in 4 1/3 innings in his fourth career start. He walked three and struck out six.

"Maybe he was overamped early," Orioles manager Brandon Hyde said. "I didn't think his command was as good as it had been."

The Yankees left the bases loaded in the first, then Baltimore squandered a chance to take the lead after Joey Gallo misplayed Cedric Mullins' flyball in left field for a three-base error. After a walk to Trey Mancini, the Orioles had men on first and third with nobody out, but Mancini was doubled off first when second baseman Gleyber Torres made a diving catch on Santander's soft liner.

"Play of the game early," manager Aaron Boone said. "I just saw the ball getting blooped into what I thought was over Rizzo's head into right field on the 18th pitch of the inning with no outs, and I'm going, 'Oh, no.' Out of nowhere, Gleyber comes in and turns it into a double play."

New York took a 1-0 lead in the third on Giancarlo Stanton's RBI double. With two on in the fourth, Trevino's fly to right hit the pole.

Donaldson had three hits and a walk to extend his on-base streak to 22 games.

New York's starting pitchers have allowed three runs or fewer in 33 of 35 starts this season.

Santander homered from the left side of the plate off Severino (3-0) in the fourth, then from the right side off Aroldis Chapman in the ninth.

Rizzo, Stanton and Aaron Judge — who had the night off — are the first trio of Yankees hitters to reach double digits in home runs by the team's 35th game. New York hit back-to-back homers for the fourth time, all involving Rizzo.

AP

New York Yankees starting pitcher Luis Severino throws during the fourth inning of a baseball game against the Baltimore Orioles, Monday, May 16, 2022, in Baltimore.

Cubs 9, Pirates 0

In Chicago, Willson Contreras led off with a double and became a rare leadoff hitter with a first-inning grand slam as Chicago burst to an eight-run lead and beat Pittsburgh.

Contreras became the 10th leadoff hitter since 1901 with a first-inning slam, the first since Houston's George Springer off Kansas City's Edinson Vólquez on June 24, 2016.

Wade Miley (1-0) retired his first 14 batters before Michael Chavis lined a single to left and ended a 13-inning hitless streak for Pittsburgh batters. Miley allowed just the one runner in seven innings and struck out six, throwing 83 pitches.

Contreras led off with a double off Dylan Peters (3-2) and scored Chicago's first run, then lined his fourth slam to left-center off Bryse Wilson on the first pitch of his second at-bat.

Brewers 1, Braves 0

In Milwaukee, Freddy Peralta dominated over seven innings, Hunter Renfroe scored on a wild pitch and Milwaukee two-hit Atlanta.

Peralta (3-1) gave up two hits and a walk while striking out 10 and retiring his final 11 batters.

The Brewers broke through in the sixth against Ian Anderson (3-2). Renfroe doubled with one out and moved to third on Omar Narváez's groundout. Renfroe then scored on Anderson's wild pitch.

Devin Williams struck out the side in the eighth and Josh Hader did the same in the ninth for his 14th save in 14 appearances.

White Sox 5, Royals 3, 10 innings

In Kansas City, Mo., Luis Robert hit a two-run homer in the 10th inning after Johnny Cueto's impressive Chicago debut, and the White Sox beat Kansas City in the opener of a five-game series.

Yasmani Grandal also had a two-run shot for the White Sox, who squandered a 3-0 lead in the eighth.

Robert connected off Scott Barlow (2-1) with two outs, scoring the automatic runner.

The 36-year-old Cueto pitched six shutout innings in his first major league start this season. He allowed just two hits and two walks, striking out seven.

Ryan Burr (1-1) worked a scoreless ninth and Liam Hendriks earned his 10th save in 13 tries.

Blue Jays 6, Mariners 2

In Toronto, Yusei Kikuchi allowed one hit over six shutout innings against his former team, Bo Bichette and Matt Chapman backed the left-hander with home runs Toronto beat Seattle.

Bichette went 3 for 5 with two RBIs and scored twice.

Kikuchi (2-1) walked three and struck out six to win for the second time in three starts. Adam Cimber got two outs with two runners on for his fourth major league save and second this season.

Bichette and Chapman homered off Chris Flexen (1-6), who lost his fourth straight decision.

Tigers 3, Rays 2

In St. Petersburg, Fla., Harold Castro hit his first home run of the year with two outs in the ninth inning, a tiebreaking shot that Detroit past Tampa Bay for its season-best fourth straight victory.

Castro connected off Andrew Kittredge (3-1) for his first long ball since going deep in consecutive games against Oakland in early September last year.

Michael Fulmer (2-2) got the win in relief and Gregory Soto pitched the ninth for his sixth save in seven tries.

Red Sox 6, Astros 3

In Boston, Trevor Story homered to tie the game in the seventh inning and Xander Bogaerts hit a two-run shot in the eighth to propel Boston past Houston.

Astros starter Jake Odorizzi left on a stretcher in the fifth inning with a leg injury. J.D. Martinez and Kiké Hernandez had two hits apiece for Boston, which has won three of four.

Matt Strahm (2-1), the fifth Red Sox pitcher, got five outs, striking out three and allowing one hit. Hansel Robles pitched the ninth for his second save.

Hector Neris (1-2) gave up three runs on three hits and a walk while striking out one in the eighth.

Rangers 7, Angels 4

In Arlington, Texas, Eli White had the first and last of five hits during a six-run first inning off Noah Syndergaard, and Texas beat Los Angeles.

Jon Gray (1-1) won his home debut despite allowing Shohei Ohtani's RBI double off the base of the centerfield wall in a three-run first. The Rangers' immediate response knocked out Syndergaard (3-2) after two-thirds of an inning.

Joe Barlow worked around a leadoff walk in the ninth for his seventh save in seven chances.

Dodgers 5, Diamondbacks 4

In Los Angeles, Chris Taylor hit a two-run homer and Tony Gonsolin pitched six innings of three-hit ball in Los Angeles' victory over Madison Bumgarner and the Arizona Diamondbacks.

Mookie Betts and Freddie Freeman drove in runs during the Dodgers' three-run fifth in the first of four games in roughly 48 hours between these NL West rivals. The series includes the first split doubleheader in Dodger Stadium history Tuesday.

Christian Walker homered early and David Peralta added a two-run shot in the ninth for the Diamondbacks, who opened an eight-game trip with their third straight loss.

Peralta connected with one out against Craig Kimbrel, but the veteran closer shook it off and finished up for his sixth save.

Bumgarner (2-2) gave up six hits and a season-high three earned runs over five innings, remaining winless against the Dodgers since September 2017.

Gonsolin (4-0) struck out seven and walked two while throwing a career-high 92 pitches.

Giants 7, Rockies 6

In Denver, Curt Casali hit two home runs, Mike Yastrzemski delivered a go-ahead homer in the top of the ninth and San Francisco beat Colorado.

Ryan McMahon homered for the Rockies, who lost for the 11th straight time to the Giants dating to Aug. 15, 2021.

Daniel Bard (1-2) struck out the first two batters he faced before Yastrzemski connected, driving it deep into the right-field seats.

John Brebbia (1-0) pitched a scoreless eighth and Camilo Doval got three outs for his sixth save in seven chances.

Marlins 8, Nationals 2

In Miami, Sandy Alcantara retired his last 20 batters, pitching three-hit ball over eight innings to lead Miami past Washington.

Jazz Chisholm Jr. and Bryan De La Cruz had three hits each, and Avisaíl García homered for the Marlins, who had 16 hits and matched their second-highest total this season.

Alcantara (3-2) needed 43 pitches to get through the first two innings and 57 for innings three through eight. He struck out five, walked one and hit a pair of batters.

Aaron Sanchez (2-3) allowed four runs, eight hits and three walks in 2 2/3 innings.

Twins 3, Athletics 1

In Oakland, Calif., Gary Sanchez homered, Royce Lewis scored twice and Minnesota beat Oakland.

Lewis started a pair of rallies against Zach Logue (2-2) by doubling in the third inning and walking to lead off the fifth. Lewis came around to score on RBI singles by Jorge Polanco and Byron Buxton to give Minnesota a 2-1 lead.

Chris Archer allowed one run and two hits in four innings. Yennier Cano (1-0) tossed two scoreless innings for his first career win. Tyler Duffey worked the ninth for his fifth career save and first this season.

Spoelstra, Udoka have Heat and Celtics ready for East finals

MIAMI (AP)—He grew up in Portland, basketball in his blood. Wasn't exactly a big-time recruit before eventually playing some college ball in the West Coast Conference. Took a circuitous route into coaching, guided along the way by one of the game's legendary sideline bosses. And last summer, he was part of the brain trust that helped USA Basketball win Olympic gold.

That is Erik Spoelstra's story.

That is also Ime Udoka's story.

There is enormous respect between those men, who have known one another for decades and have deep ties. Spoelstra coaches the Miami Heat, Udoka is in his first season coaching the Boston Celtics, and one of them will be representing the Eastern Conference in the NBA Finals. Game 1 of the East title series is Tuesday night, the top-seeded Heat playing host to the second-seeded Celtics.

"We have great respect for what they've done during the regular season, to develop the right habits," said Spoelstra, now in his 14th season after taking over as Miami coach for Hall of Famer Pat Riley. "And like I said, this is the way it should be — the two teams that played most consistently at the top of the East for most of the year, and we're meeting in the conference finals to figure it out."

The Heat needed five games to get past Atlanta in Round 1, then six games to oust Philadelphia in the East semifinals. Boston swept Brooklyn in Round 1, then ended Milwaukee's reign as NBA champions by finishing off a seven-game series win in the other East semi that ended Sunday.

It's a rematch of the 2020 East finals, held in the restart bubble at Walt Disney World, when Miami topped Boston 4-2 to earn a berth in the NBA Finals. That was the third East finals loss in a four-year span for members of the Celtics — and many of the players from some of or all those defeats, like Jayson Tatum, Jaylen Brown and Marcus Smart, are Boston's core today.

"This is the group I feel like is poised enough to get it done," Brown said. "I feel like everything that we've overcome — all these battles and challenges and adversity we've been through this season, as well as the challenge that we just had overcoming the defending champions — I think that we are prepared. I think we're ready to take that next step. We've just got to go out and take it."

For its part, Miami — seeking a seventh trip to the NBA Finals and what would be a sixth in the last 12 seasons — isn't looking back at the bubble win or much of anything else, All-Star forward Jimmy Butler insisted.

"We just want to focus in on today, right now, the group of guys that we get to go to war with every single day," Butler said.

AP

Miami Heat's Jimmy Butler walks off the court after winning Game 6 of an NBA basketball second-round playoff series against the Philadelphia 76ers, Thursday, May 12, 2022, in Philadelphia.

So, players might not look back.

It's a little different for the coaches.

Udoka remembers meeting Spoelstra when he was a kid — at 44, Udoka is seven years younger than Spoelstra — and watching him play in pro-am runs alongside other Portland basketball legends like Damon Stoudemire. Udoka played against Spoelstra-coached Heat teams four times before becoming a coach, spending the bulk of his years as an assistant under Gregg Popovich in San Antonio.

Hence, the Olympic ties they share: Popovich was USA Basketball's coach in the last Olympic cycle, and asked Udoka and Spoelstra to be part of his circle of confidants for that journey.

"He's always had success," Udoka said of Spoelstra. "One of the best coaches in the league, in my opinion. It'll be a task for us because he has his team well-prepared, hard-fought, Heat Culture mentality. I got to know him on a more personal level in that time spent in Tokyo in preparations for the Olympics, but I've known Erik for a while."

They'll know each other a little better after the next couple weeks.

HEAD-TO-HEAD

Boston won the regular season series 2-1; the Celtics went 1-0 at Miami and the teams split two games at Boston.

Miami has won 13 of the 23 previous playoff games between the franchises.

NEW LOOK

Of the players Miami gave minutes to in the 2020 East finals, only four — Butler, Tyler Herro, Bam Adebayo and Duncan Robinson — remain on the roster. That doesn't include Udonis Haslem, who didn't play in that series.

Boston has six veterans of the 2020 series back — Tatum, Brown, Smart, Daniel Theis, Grant Williams and Robert Williams.

INJURIES

Heat point guard Kyle Lowry won't be ready to start the series because of his balky hamstring, but Miami went 4-0 against Philadelphia without him (and 0-2 with him trying to play while still clearly laboring).

Smart has a mid-foot sprain and is questionable for Game 1.

INSIDE THE NUMBERS

Brown averaged 24.7 points in the regular season series between the clubs. Butler averaged 22 per game and Miami's Max Strus — who has had an excellent postseason, his first as a starter — went 13 for 26 from 3-point range in his two appearances against the Celtics.

ODDS ARE

FanDuel Sportsbook says Miami is a 1.5-point favorite in Game 1, but also lists Boston as the favorite to win the series.

Golden State is FanDuel's favorite to win the NBA title, followed by Boston, Miami and Dallas.

Before NBA draft lottery, Lakers already made Pelicans lucky

Time for the NBA draft lottery, where some team will get a nice reward for a miserable season.

Not the Los Angeles Lakers, though. Their misery is set to make a good year even better for the New Orleans Pelicans.

The Pelicans are the lone playoff team among the clubs who can get a boost from lotto luck when the drawing is conducted Tuesday night in Chicago.

The Houston Rockets, Orlando Magic and Detroit Pistons all share a 14% chance of winning the lottery and the No. 1 pick for the June 23 NBA draft in New York. Auburn's Jabari Smith, Gonzaga's Chet Holmgren and Duke's Paolo Banchero are among the top college players available.

The Rockets, Magic and Pistons were young teams who finished at the bottom of the league, the kinds of teams the lottery is supposed to benefit.

Then there's the Pelicans.

They were just like most other observers in and around the NBA this season, expecting the Lakers to be a winning team, possibly a championship contender. But when the Lakers instead flopped to a 33-49 finish, eighth-worst in the league, it left New Orleans in position to cash in one of its chips from the 2019 trade that sent Anthony Davis to Los Angeles.

The Pelicans will make the pick from the Lakers as long as it lands in the top 10 — and there's about a 99.6% chance of that.

Executive vice president of basketball operations David Griffin said nobody on the Pelicans was expecting to get a top-10 pick from the Lakers this season, in which New Orleans rebounded from a 1-12 start to make the playoffs led by All-Star Brandon Ingram — acquired in the trade with Los Angeles.

"So we got very lucky and as is often the case in our business, it's better to be lucky than good," Griffin said after the playoffs. "And if you can be both, you can achieve something and so we're grateful we're a playoff team that's holding a lottery pick. It's a highly unusual thing.

"So we got lucky there for sure."

That's what Tuesday is all about.

The Pistons had the luck last year, when they won the lottery and eventually chose guard Cade Cunningham with the No. 1 pick. He went on to finish third in the voting for rookie of the year.

Houston and Orlando also have plenty of young talent and are prepared to add to it. All three have a better than 52% chance of landing a top-four selection.

The lottery sets the top four picks. The remainder of the non-playoff teams pick in reverse order of their finish. Besides the Rockets, Magic, Pistons and Pelicans, the other teams participating Tuesday are Oklahoma City, Indiana, Portland, Sacramento, San Antonio, Washington, New York, Charlotte and Cleveland.

There are only 13 teams instead of the 14 that missed the postseason, because the Thunder also own the Clippers' selection, which goes into the lottery in the No. 12 position.

Hall of Famer David Robinson will be sitting on stage to represent the Spurs, a reminder of the type of franchise-changing player that could be available to a lottery winner. The Spurs took Robinson No. 1 after winning the 1987 lottery.

The Rockets ended up with a dominant big man of their own in the lottery 20 years ago, when they selected Yao Ming of China. Now digging out from the end of the James Harden era, they finished 20-62 this season, worst in the NBA.

Houston had the No. 2 pick last year and took Jalen Green, who showed plenty of promise as a rookie. Now they might be able to add two talented young players to their roster, a top-five pick of their own and the No. 17 selection from Brooklyn that they acquired when they dealt Harden in January 2021.

"I do think we'll be a more talented team next year than we were this year and I actually think, just in terms of talent, we were a pretty talented team," general manager Rafael Stone said. We were just extraordinarily young. Chances are we'll be even younger next year, but you never know."

Stephen Curry earns sociology degree from Davidson College

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)— "Pomp and Circumstance" played as Stephen Curry stepped up to the podium after practice Monday as he prepared with the Golden State Warriors for the Western Conference Finals.

A playful, makeshift moment to honor his new status as college graduate.

Curry completed his Bachelor of Arts degree in sociology to join the Davidson College class of 2022, even if he couldn't be there to walk for the commencement ceremony Sunday but watched on video.

He fulfilled a promise to mother Sonya that he would receive his degree. She had been bragging for the past decade that two of her children—son Seth and daughter Sydel—had college degrees.

"It's cool to kind of relive the sights and sounds of school and campus and all that," Curry said. "This is a long time coming, obviously. Since I left campus it was a goal to finish. Just obviously a sense of accomplishment but a promise I made to my mom and Coach (Bob) McKillop when I left after my junior year. It was pretty special, they had the Fathead (cutout) over on campus in my honor."

This marks another important accomplishment to add to a list that includes three NBA championships, two MVPs and a pair of scoring titles. Curry will receive his diploma at a later date. He completed his coursework 13 years after leaving Davidson a year early following his junior season, then was drafted by the Warriors seventh overall.

Next up is Gary Payton II, who said Sunday he is close to earning his degree from Oregon State in a month or so.

"It doesn't surprise me. We have guys who are really conscientious about the world beyond basketball and their impact in their communities. Also, Steph is a really curious guy, he's constantly trying to expand his horizons and getting his college degree was really important to him," coach Steve Kerr said. "I think it's fantastic, and same with Gary. It's wonderful when you see guys go back and finish up."

Curry also worked toward his major during the 2011 lockout then re-enrolled for this spring's semester.

Melshy meshes nicely with motocross

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Melshy Cepeda may not have won any races yet in the Power Puff Class in the 2022 Monster Energy Point Series Race, but her passion for motocross is undeniable having been around the sport from a young age.

"I first started riding back in 2007 when I was 5 years old. It was my very first race on Rota on a Yamaha PW50. It was a great experience because I got a chance to race with my sister Edinna Cepeda during that time."

The 20-year-old CNMI COVID-19 Task Force staff said everything she knows about motocross is because of his father, veteran rider Melvin Cepeda.

"What attracted me to take up motocross was my dad. My dad has been a rider for a long time now. He's my inspiration and my mentor. I don't really train often and only when my dad and I have the same days off. My best finish is my dad telling me I did a great job out there."

Cepeda, who competes onboard a 2020 KLX 140 RL, looks forward to improving and continuing to make her father proud.

"I'm in the Power Puff Class right now. Usually before the race we will do a track walk with all the riders and my dad will give me tips. My future plans are to improve my riding skills and maybe someday I can be flying my bike in the air like my dad. To those who are interested in joining motocross my best advice to you is don't ever be afraid."

Marianas Racing Association vice president Justis "Cuki" Alvarez is proud of Cepeda for competing in the sport for so long and striving to become better each time she races.

"Melshy is a pretty good rider! She looks like she has a lot of fun on the bike and has pretty good form too. She likes standing up and she handles the bike well. Her dad Melvin and older sisters all used to race back in the earlier days in the 2000s. Melshy is very consistent and although she's not the fastest one on the track, she usually always finishes her races without crashing!"

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Melshy Cepeda in action in a recent race in the Power Puff Class of the 2022 Monster Energy Point Series Race at the Cowtown Race Track.

HITLIST

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high school volleyball season last week.

"All of us were tired physically but just disregarded it. We played with our hearts out. Just before the championship started, we faced off against a pretty solid team, which took us to two extended sets. We entered the championship, very exhausted especially because we had been there since the morning and the championship only started around 9pm," he said.

Aside from Manzon, also making up the team are Jasper Perez, John Justo, Juruel Magtalas, Steven Hong, Akira Ota, Dylan Mister, and Raiki Tababa.

"You could say that the team we have is the 'Dream Team' of CNMI high school, with the addition of star player Steven Hong and libero Akira Ota," added Manzon.

Save for Hong and Ota,who are from Grace Christian Academy, the other members of Da Hitlist are from Marianas High School.

Perez, for his part, considers the championship as another blessing and a perfect high school graduation gift for him.

"There was no secret to our win, as we maximized our team's skills and players to their full potential. Having Steven in the team made our offense a lot more powerful. I don't really know how we sustained the run, maybe because we were still hot coming off the high school season. We dedicate this to everyone who supported us," he said.

For the women, Goldies Girlies followed Da Hitlist's script to the title after dropping the opening set in the finals, 22-25, they overcame Sallinareonice in the last two, 25-11, 15-17.

Goldies Girlies finished second to Sallinareonice in the eliminations with an 8-2 win-loss card.

The team then beat Southside in the quarterfinals, 25-17-25-12, before advancing to the championship game with a 25-21, 25-15 win over GG.

Sallinareonice got a bye in the quarterfinals before making quick work of Plasma, 25-23, 25-18, in the semis, but eventually fell short in the finals against Goldies Girlies.

Goldies Girlies' Fiona Bucalig credited familiarity and the individual skills of each player for the team going all the way.

"I couldn't imagine playing with anyone else other than my team. Though the tournament was from last year and having no practice at all, we walked into all our games relying on our fundamentals. Each of the girls on my team are all-stars in their own right, and I knew that on the court we were going to be able to get the chemistry we needed. Apart from last year, when the tournament initially was set, we had not practiced together at all. But once we got on the court there was a kind of instant chemistry that I think made us a hard team to beat."

The Mt. Carmel High School volleyball player said their strategy during the tournament was to just keep switching up the hitters in every play.

"All the girls on my team are strong and smart hitters, so we knew we didn't have a problem sharing the ball with everyone. We wanted to keep our opponents on their toes. I knew that we were all strong servers as well, and so we used that to our advantage as well."

Aside from Bucalig, Golden Girlies is also made up of Katriel Saures, Soleil Lamar, Hye Jin Elliott, Maury Zon Doculan, Madeleen Narciso, and Fatima Monterubio.

Tournament organizer En Yang Pang congratulated Da Hitlist and Golden Girlies for winning the championship and all the teams that took part on the weeklong tourney.

"I would like to thank all the youth who came out and played in our tournament. COVID had derailed our previous tournament, but we did not let that stop us and we came out stronger than ever. Congratulations to Golden Girlies and Da Hitlist for winning the championship and showcasing the promising up-and-coming young talent the island has to offer."

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Da Hitlist players, from left, John Justo, Steven Hong, Jerome Manzon, and Jasper Perez share a light moment after winning the men's division of the Agape Christian Church 30th Anniversary Volleyball

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	26	9	.743	_
Tampa Bay	21	15	.583	5½
Toronto	19	17	.528	7½
Boston	14	21	.400	12
Baltimore	14	22	.389	12½

Central Division

Minnesota	21	15	.583	_
Chicago	17	17	.500	3
Cleveland	16	17	.485	3½
Kansas City	12	21	.364	7½
Detroit	13	23	.361	8

West Division

Houston	23	13	.639	_
Los Angeles	24	14	.632	_
Seattle	16	20	.444	7
Texas	15	19	.441	7
Oakland	15	23	.395	9

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

New York	23	13	.639	_
Philadelphia	17	18	.486	5½
Miami	16	19	.457	6½
Atlanta	16	20	.444	7
Washington	12	25	.324	11½

Central Division

Milwaukee	23	13	.639	_
St. Louis	19	15	.559	3
Pittsburgh	15	20	.429	7½
Chicago	14	20	.412	8
Cincinnati	9	26	.257	13½

West Division

Los Angeles	22	12	.647	_
San Diego	22	13	.629	½
San Francisco	21	14	.600	1½
Arizona	18	18	.500	5
Colorado	17	18	.486	5½

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NMI

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naves are critical, especially at this stage of their preparations for the Pacific Mini Games.

The regional competition that will feature badminton and eight other sports will run from June 17 to 25. Badminton matches will take place from June 20 to 25 with NMI players battling representatives of Guam, Tahiti, New Caledonia, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, and Wallis & Futuna at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Leonard Manuel, another member of the national team, took note of the training regimen that Piencenaves shared to the squad and the techniques he demonstrated to the players.

"In the nearly one week he trained us, our team has improved significantly due to his rigorous training regimen. We learned the purpose of certain shots, essential footwork skills, and physical conditioning among other things. We are incredibly grateful with his assistance, as we move closer to reaching our peak form for the Mini Games.

Piencenaves, who is a bit familiar with NMI players after seeing them play in Guam early this year, hopes the squad will continue to follow the drills he taught them as these will really improve the players' stamina and footwork.

"Skills-wise, they are good and are getting there as far as being ready for the Mini Games is concerned. I encourage them to push themselves harder in every training session and work more on their physical fitness," he said.

Meanwhile, Northern Marianas Badminton Association president Merlie Tolentino thanked Badminton Oceania, Badminton Asia, and the BWF for making Piencenaves' visit to the NMI possible.

"Coach Ian's expertise in training athletes for high-level competitions is a big help to our national players preparing for the Mini Games. He was also able to provide training for our aspiring coaches, who will play a critical role in growing badminton in the NMI, especially at the interscholastic level. We managed to kick off our interscholastic league this year and with more coaches/teachers getting the needed training, we are positive we would have more teams and more players for next season's badminton competition," Tolentino said. ***(PR)***

CRANK

From Page 20

tinue to exchange a flurry of haymakers until Torres connected on his that sent Camacho down the canvas and seemingly hurt that the referee immediately stepped in and stopped the fight.

Camacho was understandably disappointed after the loss to the up-and-coming Torres, who earned a UFC contract after fighting on Dana White's Contender Series last summer.

"Bummed! We did our best in preparation with the fight camp months out. Weight cut was amazing and game planning and training was on point. It was a tough night on the job. Torres came out and implemented his game and took me out of mine. He was the better fighter," he said in a social media message to *Saipan Tribune*.

The Guam-born and Saipan-raised Camacho, however, said life goes on and he's just happy doing what he loves as a professional career.

"I'm healthy with no injuries, [have] beautiful family, amazing friends, paradise island home. Life's great!"

He said he'd like to thank everyone who supported coming into his fight against Torres.

"I want to thank my wife, family, team, friends, and all the Marianas for the love and support over the years! Everyone freaking rocks!"

One of his cornermen, Trench Tech owner Cuki Alvarez, whose sobriquet was "The Cockroach" during his MMA career, said Camacho took the loss like a champ and Torres has a great future in UFC.

"Frank is in good spirits as always and remains upbeat despite the loss. His opponent Manuel 'El Loco' Torres was a freaking absolute terror and stud! The kid has a bright future in the UFC for sure, no doubt and is actually dubbed as 'The Next Big Thing.'"

Alvarez said that losing is also part of every sport and he expects his good friend, Camacho, to bounce right back.

"I mean, we do take these losses hard of course because we are so passionate about fighting, but we are clear-minded and content as well because this is the game we love to play! We win big and we lose big sometimes, but we remain happy because we always try our best and that's all we can do."

The win against the comebacking Camacho raised Torres' win-loss record to 13-2 with 12 of those wins coming in the first round. Camacho, meanwhile, dropped to 22-9 after his career was sidelined by an automobile accident last year. His fight against Torres actually was his first in nearly three years.

Torres was slightly heavier than Camacho entering the match at 155 ½ lbs with the latter at 155 lbs.

Yankees beat Orioles 6-2 to extend AL East lead to 5 1/2

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Sports

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Da Hitlist, Golden Girlies top Agape v-ball

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Da Hitlist and Golden Girlies players pose for a group shot with their championship trophies after topping Agape Christian Church 30th Anniversary Volleyball Tournament which finals was held at the Agape Gymnasium last weekend.

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Teams made from an amalgamation of the island's top high volleyball prospects triumphed in last weekend's finals of the Agape Christian Church 30th Anniversary Volleyball Tournament held at the Agape Gymnasium.

In the men's division, Da Hitlist outplayed Hallelujah in the finals, 18-25, 25-19, 15-19, to win the championship.

Da Hitlist finished No. 2 to Hallelujah in Pool A then defeated Pool B No. 3 Bravo in the quarterfinals, 25-17, 25-17. It then drew Pool B topnotcher HitHeads in, 27-25, 29-27, to advance to the finals.

Hallelujah, meanwhile, beat Pool B No. 4 Can Do in the quarters, 25-16, 29-17, before dispatching Pool B No. 2 Chelu Prim, 23-25, 25-21, 15-12, to book the finals berth against Da Hitlist.

Da Hitlist's Jerome Manzon said it took a lot from them to win the championship, especially since most of the players on the team were just coming off

See HITLIST on Page 19

NMI badminton players get help in training

With the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022 fast approaching, NMI badminton players more than welcome the training sessions they had with Badminton Asia development officer and Level 2 coach Ian Gil Piencenaves.

Piencenaves, a former national player for the Philippines who played in Badminton World Federation competitions, was on loan from Badminton Asia and was brought to Saipan by Badminton Oceania to hold a coaching workshop and Shuttle Time teacher course early this month. He also added to his schedule a series of training sessions with the NMI National Badminton Team.

"Coach Ian's training has been extremely beneficial to us. From warm-ups to drills to cool-downs, there were many things we didn't know or hadn't done. There are also specific skills designed for doubles and singles play that make a significant difference in the game. We might not have known if it hadn't been for him," said Janelle Pangilinan, adding that although short, the five sessions with Pience-

See NMI on Page 19

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The NMI's Leonard Manuel makes a return near the net, while teammate Daniel Macario looks on during a training match against Andreau Galvez and Jordan Pangilinan at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium early this month.

'The Crank' suffers TKO in Round 1 in UFC Vegas 54

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It wasn't a triumphant return to the eight-sides by Marianas pride Frank "The Crank" Camacho in UFC Vegas 54 last weekend.

This after Mexican Manuel "El Loco" Torres beat him via TKO with 1:35 left in Round 1 of their lightweight bout at the UFC Apex in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Both fighters exchanged heavy blows in the first minutes of the match with Camacho occasionally trying to take down Torres with not much success.

Both fighters would con-

See CRANK on Page 19

FACEBOOK
In this screen grab from Frank "The Crank" Camacho's Facebook account, the Team Oyama fighter is seen here congratulating Manuel "El Loco" Torres after their UFC Vegas 54 fight last weekend.